

Hongkong Weekly Press

China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. LIII.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 19th April, 1901, at Foochow, the wife of C. SKERRET ROGERS, of a son.
On the 20th April, at No. 23, Kawaguchi Machi, Osaka, the wife of Rev. H. McC. E. PRICE, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 20th April, 1901, at H.B.M. Consulate-General, by Byron Brennan, Esq., C.M.G., His Majesty's Consul-General, and at Holy Trinity Cathedral by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., HAROLD FREDERICK KING, of H.B.M. Consular Service in China, to ALICE GERTRUDE, daughter of the late Frederick TATTERSALL, of Bedford.

On the 22nd April, 1901, at St. Joseph's Church, Shanghai, by the Rev. Père Le Gall, JOSEPH GUBTICK, of Port Arthur, to OLGA CHELGEEN, of Vladivostok.

On the 26th April, 1901, at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., JAMES REID BARCLAY to KATE SUTHERLAND, widow of Andrew McKELVIE.

DEATHS.

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 22nd April, 1901, ALFRED SMITH, Wharfinger, China Mer hants' Lower Hongkew Wharf, aged 37 years.

On the 24th April, 1901, at No. 6, Seward Road, Shanghai, WINFRED HENRIETTA, only daughter of Peter and Sophia RAEBURN, aged 3½ years.

On the 25th April, 1901, at Pootung, NORAH ELLEREN DUNN, the only child of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. DUNN, aged three months and twenty-five days.

On the 30th April, at the Government Civil Hospital, MAURICE CHILTON COLE LEWIS, late of Fresno, California, third surviving son of the late Captain John C. A. LEWIS, of Teddington, Middlesex.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The German mail of the 19th March arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Prussen*, on the 30th April (42 days); and the American mail of the 30th March arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Gaelic*, on the 30th April (31 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A great funeral procession took place on the 28th ult., at Peking, in honour of the three Tsungli Yamen ministers murdered by Prince Tuan.

H.B.M. despatch boat *Alacrity*, with Admiral Sir Edward Seymour on board, and the *Ed Otter*, left Nagasaki on the 28th ult. for Weihaiwei.

An unsupported rumour is conveyed in a Seoul despatch that Great Britain has lodged a demand with the Korean Government for a lease of Port Hamilton.

Li Hung-chang has cabled to the *Christian Herald*, New York, that eleven million people are affected by the famine in Shansi and that relief is urgently necessary.

Mr. Brodriok stated in the House of Commons last week that Indian troops will be quartered at Hongkong, Mauritius and Singapore, but not to the exclusion of the British.

Viscount Cranborne has stated that no reduction of the garrison at Shan-hai will be made for the present. It is contemplated that some British troops may be withdrawn from Tientsin and Weihaiwei.

A report was in circulation amongst Shanghai mandarins last week to the effect that Viceroi Liu Kung-yi has given his consent to a proposed railway to be built by a British company connecting Nanking with K'ai-feng, the capital of Honan province.

The London *Standard's* city editor, commenting on the causes of the financial panic in Japan, says that the most permanent solution of the difficulty would be that sufficient inducement should be offered to prompt foreign capitalists to invest their money in Japan.

It is stated that all the indemnities for destruction of property in the three Northern prefectures of Honan have been settled for 17,000 taels. One of the most northerly *hsiens* is Wu An, where there were many converts slain. Recently a French officer with a detachment of soldiers went from Shuntetu to Wu An, apparently to exact reparation. This brings the foreign troops to within 180 li of the Chinese troops who have been waiting long at Changtefu, and it is feared that a collision is inevitable.

Count von Waldersee has officially reported to Berlin serious engagements at the Great Wall between four columns under the command of General Kettler and the Chinese commanded by General Liu. The latter fought stubbornly and suffered severely. They were everywhere repulsed, and were pursued to Kukuan. The German casualties were seven killed and thirty-two wounded. The Germans captured eleven old and two new quick-firing guns. The French troops remain at Kukuan. General Kettler is marching on Paotingfu.

An *Asahi* telegram says with reference to the French loan to Corea that Mr. McLeavy Brown, the Commissioner of Customs, was not consulted when the Customs revenue was made security for the loan, and it is expected that Mr. Brown and the British Minister will enter a protest.

It is reported that Count von Waldersee's proposals include the retention of an international garrison of 6,000 men at Tientsin until the Chinese forts have been razed to the ground. Britain, France, Russia, and Germany will hold Shanhaikwan with 300 men each, and warships will remain on the Peiho to maintain communications.

A Hsianfu telegram of the 22nd ult. to the *N. C. Daily News* says:—There is now no doubt at all that the Imperial Court is about to leave Hsian in the very near future. Telegrams were sent yesterday to all the provincial high authorities who had been supplying the Court with money, silks, satins, and the thousand and one necessities needed at Hsian since the Court's arrival in this city in October last, to stop sending any more supplies. In consequence of this quite a number of caravans on their way from the South to Shansi have been stopped half-way, *en route*, and ordered to await further orders before continuing their journey. The destination of the Court, however, remains a secret at present.

It was decided at a recent Cabinet Council in Japan to postpone Government works amounting to about fifteen million yen for the present fiscal year. The Government, however, must in one way or other find some twenty-five million yen for absolutely necessary works in addition to about sixteen million yen for expenditure in China. It is stated that Marquis Ito has been considering plans to raise the money, and is reported to be negotiating a loan from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. Recently Mr. Jackson, Agent of the Bank in Yokohama, arrived at Tokyo and had an interview with Marquis Ito, when it is understood Mr. Jackson offered to undertake a loan. After repeated conferences, it is has been almost arranged that the Bank should purchase the bonds already issued to the amount of from 35,000,000 to 40,000,000 yen.

It is reported from Seoul, says the *Nagasaki Press*, that Russia has not yet abandoned her claim for the lease of Chinhaï Bay. The recent withdrawal from Masampo of the powerful Russian fleet would seem to show that Russia has renounced her policy in connection with the lease question, as she is stated to have recognised the inadvisability of inviting Japan's interference by the active movements of the warships. It is reported that the Russian Minister to Corea is at present using his utmost influence in persuading the pro-Russian Ministers to obtain the lease. There is much uncertainty concerning the news that the Russian bluejackets have been withdrawn from Masampo. According to the latest news the Russian bluejackets still remain there. A Japanese Government cablegram says that a body of Russian troops have made an appearance on the Korean frontier in the north. Russian authorities assured the Korean Government that these Russian soldiers will not cross the boundary, being kept for the sake of preventing depredations by the *blaxos* or Chinese bandits. The Korean troops, however, have encountered these marauders and driven them away.

THE QUESTION OF CHINA'S CAPITAL.

(Daily Press, 27th April.)

The intimations received from time to time as to the intentions of the Chinese Court with regard to its place of residence are most conflicting, and either indicate a great want of accurate information on the part of the news-purveyors or an amazing amount of indecision on the part of the Emperor, Empress Dowager, and their advisers. First it was reported that they would leave Hsianfu for Kansu, then for Cheungtu, then that they would return to Peking, next that they would constitute the city of Hsianyang in Northern Hupeh, as the capital; and now once again that, though the Court has made arrangements to leave Hsianfu at once, their destination is kept secret. This would seem rather to strengthen the report that Peking is to be abandoned as the capital. The present temporary capital, Hsianfu, is of course out of the question, though it possesses some of the qualifications necessary for the seat of Government of a great Empire. It is a large walled city, built on a vast plain and laid out in the shape of a parallelogram, the walls being massive and well built, flanked by lofty towers, and about ten miles in circumference. It contains about a quarter of a million inhabitants and is the seat of a considerable trade, mainly, however, of a retail character. The south-western section contains the residences of numerous opulent families and persons of rank, many of them retired officials. In the western section of the city is settled a large number of Mahomedans, and from them the ranks of the military officers are mainly recruited. Some of the buildings have a good deal of antiquarian interest, and there are many places of interest in the city. But, on the other hand, Hsianfu is a great distance from the other centres of population, and is difficult to reach. The latter objection would, of course, fade away if railway communication were once established across the great intervening plains from the coast, but the time for such enterprises has not yet arrived, and even if it had come, it is doubtful whether the position of the city would be deemed suitable from a strategic point of view.

Hsianyang, so far as position goes, does, on the other hand, recommend itself as very suitable for the seat of Government. Although now only a prefectural city of shrunken size and no great trade, it is well situated in Northern Hupeh on the banks of the river Han, about one hundred and eighty miles from the junction of that waterway with the Yangtze at Hanyang and Hankow. The Han is navigable for light-draft boats probably up to Hsianyang, and is therefore fairly accessible from the great Yangtze ports, while it is sufficiently remote to afford the Imperial Court a certain measure of the seclusion desired. Hsianyang may be said to lie almost in the core of the Empire, and without being near the sea coast to be within easy access of the great centres of population of Mid-China. Seated there, the Emperor and Court would at any rate be far removed from the great northern neighbour whose pressure is already beginning to be felt so inconveniently. Naturally the princes of the present dynasty would be loath to leave Peking, which lies so near the Manchurian provinces, the ancient patrimony of the Manchu Emperors. But safety is usually preferred to sentiment, and if the Emperor cannot feel that he is free to act as he pleases while living in the capital of his

race, he probably would not hesitate long to transfer the Court to what he considered a more secure resting place. And though Hsianyang is decayed and fallen now, it still has great historic memories and associations. According to a correspondent of our Shanghai morning contemporary, the principal historic associations of this city are with the era of the Three Kingdoms (circa A. D. 200), the heroes of which yield to those of no other period in the popular estimation. Around it armies encamped, and both within and without its walls prodigies of valour were performed, on which the Chinese love to dwell in story, song, or drama. Under a vigorous and reforming monarch the ancient glories of the place might be revived, and Hsianyang again become a great and busy city. It is not unfavourably placed for trade, and if brought into regular and speedy communication with the Yangtze Valley would no doubt speedily regain a great deal of its former importance.

The Treaty Powers, with the exception perhaps of Russia, would be glad to see a transfer of the capital to some place nearer the centre of the Empire and more in touch with the great marts than Peking, which is quite isolated from all important trade centres with the exception of Tientsin. The scheme to fortify the Legations at Peking and to keep open the lines of communication between the metropolis and the sea would not be an easy one effectively to carry out, and it would involve a very considerable initial outlay as well as a heavy cost annually for maintenance. Possibly at a new capital, away from the anti-foreign influences which obtain in Peking, it might not be considered necessary to fortify the Legations against attack. However that may be, it is obviously in the interests of progress and reform that the seat of Government should be transferred to some other centre than Peking, some city more representative of the Chinese nation, and more open to the civilising influences of the Western world. It may be added, too, that it is not the interest of the Western Powers to see the Chinese Court falling under the domination of Russia, as will inevitably prove to be the case if Manchuria is absorbed by that Power. Even now, with Port Arthur a Russian arsenal and the Manchurian railways worked by Russian engineers and guarded by Cossacks in number, Peking cannot fail to prove very susceptible to Muscovite pressure.

THE ALLIES' MISTAKES IN CHIHLI.

(Daily Press, 30th April.)

On the 16th March, writing of the state of affairs under the German occupation of Chihli province, we made the following remarks: "All our most recent advices go to show that the tendency of the recent measures being taken is to raise up the millions. In all a feeling of wrong and injustice amongst this she has been but playing Russia's part; and has undoubtedly been earning the gratitude of such enemies of their country's best interests as LI HUNG-CHANG and his crew." We said so, not out of any unfriendly feeling towards Germany, but as an instance of the evil of imperfect information. It is a common saying that the Chinese are an easily governed people, and that they are so conscious of the advantages of good government in their own persons that they readily consent and submit to all necessary rules and regulations. While it is true that the Chinese do to a very considerable extent appreciate the principles of good government, and have themselves a considerable

aptitude for personal rule, it is nevertheless the case that in each case where we have had to govern communities largely composed of Chinese the difficulty of rule has become an important factor. In the Straits Settlements the clannish habits of the Chinese settlers, and their custom of perpetually seeking to form an *imperium in imperio* has from the very foundation of the Colony been a source of not only trouble but danger. In Hongkong a similar source of danger is ever present. We need only point to the history of opposition amongst the Chinese population to the measures taken for the repression of plague, and the desertion of the Colony by the natives in thousands in response to the commands of some mysterious authority. In Shanghai, where the local government prides itself on being in complete touch with its Chinese population, on the outbreak of trouble in the North, the native residents cleared out by thousands daily, apparently in response to some similar, though unknown, mandate. From Chihli, information of the same kind comes down in daily augmenting force. Partly from the very difficulty of the task they have set before them, but mainly from the absence of any trustworthy intelligence department, Chihli under military rule is quickly lapsing into a state nearly bordering on anarchy. A correspondent writing to us complains that the German Headquarters while destroying the old organisation have not succeeded in creating a new one: that they are supplied with a lot of interpreters whose only aim is to make as much money as possible out of their occupation; and that between the levies of the military and the squeezes and falsehoods of the men placed in the position of interpreters, all justice has departed, and robbery and license rules through the land. As we have heard these same complaints from entirely different and perfectly independent sources, to which we alluded last week, we feel bound to believe them. It is the case likewise that personally our authorities completely exonerate the German Commander and his Staff; the result they agree is due to the prevailing want of information, and the tainted sources on which the Headquarter Staff relies. At the same time it is only right to acknowledge that some of the worse abuses have been in part at least remedied. Probably the worst of these was the manner in which on the information of informers requisitions were levied on the towns under the allegation that they had been affording aid to "Boxers." Similar charges on equally unsubstantial evidence were in too many cases made against smaller towns or villages, and the people afforded no opportunity of showing their innocence. Even when the informants in such a case are above suspicion it is a dangerous thing to place irresponsible power in the hands of individuals; in the present case it has undoubtedly led to a reaction amongst the Chinese, and a general refusal to work with the powers that be. Amongst people so clannish as the Chinese such a system is sure to lead to the worst results, and to turn the natural aptitude for good government into a means for the promotion of anarchy and disorder.

This want of any intelligence system worth the name has been from the beginning of the trouble the main cause of our difficulties; and with none so markedly as with the English and German Legations. It must ever remain as a condemnation of the methods adopted that up to the very last moment the Legations, led astray by false information, were confirmed in the belief that the outrages taking place around them had no deeper origin than mere local feelings; the

same design of throwing dust in the Ministers' eyes is at the bottom of the present difficulty. The fact is that the interpreters are playing the game of the reactionary party, and both Legations and Headquarters are carefully surrounded by spies who take care that no information shall reach the foreigner, unless such as they themselves have concocted. Although comparisons are apt to become odious, we yet may contrast the state of Canton under the Allied Commission in 1859-1861 with that of Chihli at the moment. In the former case the Commissioners placed the administration, under careful guarantees, in the hands of the previous local officials, whom they made personally responsible. That this personal responsibility was not a mere nominal thing we may point out from the incident of the imprisonment of PEE KWEI for accepting bribes. The result of the system was that the Chinese themselves acknowledged that the city had never been better governed. The opposite system of attempting personal government with inadequate knowledge has proved something very like a failure in Chihli.

BATTLES AT THE GREAT WALL.

(Daily Press, 1st May.)

Though the details are by no means clear yet, it is plain from various telegrams received from the North that serious fighting has occurred within the last ten days in the province of Chihli. An *Ostasiatische Lloyd* telegram from Peking, on the 23rd ult., reported news from Paotingfu that a Franco-German expedition reached the Great Wall on the previous day. The troops of General LIU KUANG-TSUI, it was stated, had retired behind the Wall before the troops reached there and offered no resistance. The expedition was therefore to return. According to Japanese telegrams the ostensible object of the Franco-German expedition was to crush the remnants of "Boxer" bands. It is plain, however, from later despatches that something far more serious than Boxer bands was encountered, and the statement that the expedition was to return was absurdly premature. The telegram which reached us late on Monday night brought the substance of Count VON WALDERSEE's official report of serious fighting at the Great Wall of China. The dates of the battles are furnished by the *Ostasiatische Lloyd* telegram, which appeared in the *China Mail*, as the 23rd and 24th April; and the exact places are fixed as a little to the north of the Huailu Pass on the first day, and the Kukuan Pass on the second. The German force, under the command of General KETTLER, was arranged in four columns, and on the 23rd ult. an attack was made on the Chinese fortresses, which were not captured until after eleven hours' fighting. On the 24th a Chinese force of 6,000 or 8,000 men, entrenched, it is stated, in front of the French at Kukuan Pass, was attacked and routed. Count VON WALDERSEE's report, however, makes it look as if the Chinese were the attacking party, for it is said that they were "everywhere repulsed and were pursued to Kukuan." The German losses are put, on the same authority, at seven killed and thirty-two wounded, while they captured thirteen quick-firing guns. The Chinese losses are reported to be severe.

Now, though we are quite in the dark as to who these troops are with whom the Germans have had so severe a struggle—for the French appear to have taken no part in the fighting—it is obvious that they must have been trained soldiers and well armed, either of the Imperial army or of the provincial

forces. A paragraph in the *Peking and Tientsin Times*, of the 20th ult., throws a little light. It is as follows:—"A few days ago," says the *Je Je*, Count WALDERSEE "received information that a large Chinese force under General LIU was apparently making hostile preparations in Shansi, and some cavalry and artillery started for Chengting-fu to reconnoitre. Prince CHING and LI HUNG-CHANG, on learning this, were much disturbed and at once notified the Chinese troops to withdraw." If it is a fact that these are the men who opposed General KETTLER, the aspect of affairs is anything but promising. The natives in the North appear to have the idea firmly rooted in their minds that Count VON WALDERSEE has in contemplation an expedition to Hsianfu. It is probable that this is the disastrous result of those errors in the Commander-in-Chief's policy on which we have commented more than once, as in our issue of yesterday. Of course if the Chinese troops invaded Chihli with hostile intent, there was no course open to the Allies' leader but to drive them out with the greatest expedition possible. But more than once in the past few months collisions appear to have occurred between the Allied and Chinese troops which arose from misapprehensions. We can only trust that this is not what happened on the 23rd and 24th ult. It is far preferable to think that the two battles were the result of wanton aggression of the Chinese troops. The question cannot actually be decided, however, before the arrival of further details.

ALLIANCES, OLD AND NEW.

(Daily Press, 29th April.)

With the beginning of the new century politicians and public writers have busied themselves with speculations as to new arrangements of the Powers in Europe and throughout the world. They appear to have satisfied themselves that the old alliances and bonds cannot be counted on as likely to endure long into the century. They point out that the Triple Alliance is now fast approaching the time when it must either be renewed or dissolved. Many anticipate no little difficulty about its renewal for another period. Of the authors of the original treaty, they point out, nearly all are dead. The Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH is the only one of the three Monarchs who presided over the original negotiations, and of the statesmen who drafted the first treaty—BISMARCK, ANDRASSY, and CRISPI—only the last-named survives, and politically he has long ceased to be a force. The Italian people, or at least the poorer section of them, are not inclined to look favourably on a tie which imposes on them so heavy a taxation to meet Italy's military and naval obligations to her allies, while the German-Italian commercial treaties are by no means in favour of Italy. It is stated that the new Italian Foreign Minister will make the re-entrance of Italy into the Triple Alliance dependent on a favourable revision of the Commercial Treaty with Germany. What significance is really to be attached to the recent Franco-Italian amenities at Toulon, it is impossible to say. French publicists will make the most of it, and the Italian Government itself is likely to be pleased at the almost effusive remarks of President LOUBET. But such demonstrations need not mean much, and it is to be doubted whether Berlin is at all agitated at the sight. The Triple Alliance has done much toward preserving the peace of Europe during the end of the Nineteenth Century, and the contracting

parties will think long before severing the bond. Nevertheless commercial questions are sure to play a prominent part in the arrangements of the future.

In a similar way, commercial questions will have much to do in the mutual attitude of Germany and Russia. The treaty of commerce between these two nations expires in 1903, and it is extremely problematical what *modus vivendi* will then be adopted between these two great Powers. Well-informed persons in Russia testify to an increasingly bitter feeling towards Germany, which is due to many causes, but especially to the opinion that Russia's policy generally has been thwarted in several directions by that of Germany. If Russia were happy and prosperous in herself she would probably treat Teutonic opposition with a certain amount of indifference, in the belief that time was fighting her battle, and that only patience was needed to restore the balance in her favour. But far from being flourishing or contented, Russia is suffering from great commercial and industrial depression, and some of her own leading men believe that she stands on the edge of a financial abyss from which all the artifices of M. DE WITTE will not save her. The difficulties of their country increase the acerbity with which Russians are now regarding the developments of German policy in the Near and Far East. Responsible writers do not hesitate to speak of a growing rift between Slav and Teuton. The Emperor WILLIAM has, it is true, shown more regard for Russia's feelings than has been grateful to the people of Britain; and in China in particular he has acted in such a way that Russia, unopposed by the nerveless, the "gelatinous" policy (as it has been styled) of Lord SALISBURY's Government, has grown overweening, with the result that the world is now faced by a most critical and dangerous situation in Manchuria and the neighbouring provinces of China. Germany, however, has not failed to exact a very full compensation for her complaisance; and now Russia, resentful though she may be at the likely success of Germany in the race for the Persian Gulf, is probably more alarmed still at Germany's position in China. Hitherto, says a correspondent of obvious authority, writing recently to the *Daily Chronicle*, Russia has supposed that she had only two opponents to deal with in Northern China—one, Great Britain, who she believed would never seriously oppose her in Manchuria, because she could find compensation in other parts of China; the other, Japan, for whose power she feels, rightly or wrongly, nothing but contempt. But the development of German plans in North China has been startling in its rapidity and comprehensiveness. Russia is filled with apprehension; for that the German *agis* should be thrown over the Chinese Empire, and especially over that part nearest to her own possessions, was a contingency that never presented itself to her deepest thinkers or most prescient statesmen. To add to the already enormous drains on Russia's finances caused by her activity in North-Eastern Asia, the St. Petersburg Government is now confronted with great addition to her expenses brought about by vigorous German competition. It is for this reason, no doubt, that we have seen the reconciliation between Russia and France after a period of strained relations between the two allies. The immediate result is sure to be another French loan to Russia. In return for this France will have the privilege of supporting Russian policy in China, with a hope that she may get something more for herself in South-Western

China—a dream which will one day threaten to become something much more tangible and which therefore must not simply be dismissed as a harmless illusion.

In no part of the world does the continuance of old alliances among the Powers of Europe or the formation of new promise to have more influence than in the Far East. The whole question of the stability of China is bound up with the maintenance of a certain equilibrium between the various national aims of the Powers. The old alliance between Britain and France in Chinese affairs did much to guide the progress of China in the direction which it took for a large part of last century. The temporary compact between Germany, France and Russia, after the China-Japan War, took from Japan what she has won from China and installed in Japan's place far more terrible masters in China. The Anglo-German Agreement promised to maintain China's integrity, though it has yet to fulfill its promise. A wider combination of Powers, including the United States and Japan, might settle the Chinese question finally, as far as any finality is possible. But the likelihood of the Powers holding together long enough to come to a proper and honest decision is unfortunately none too great. Nearly every "Concert" of Powers has proved a fiasco hitherto. The present one, if it fails, will be the most dismal failure of all.

THE COURT OF ARBITRATION.

(Daily Press, 4th May.)

According to recent telegrams, the Hague Court of Arbitration has been constituted, though China, Turkey, Mexico and Luxembourg have not yet joined. It would be perhaps hazardous to say that even those Powers that professed themselves most interested in the establishment were at all anxious to see the Court in working order; or that there has been any advance towards a general wish to avail themselves of this new method of settling differences. History goes back for a few thousand years, and within that period there is scarcely an instance of a state being guided in its relations with its neighbours by principles of abstract justice; nor has the period since the Congress at the Hague has been held shown that any higher appreciation of the moral rights of nations exists than formerly amongst the Powers. As a fact, conceal it as we may, interest instead of sentiment has been at the bottom of all our recent troubles; and interest rather than a desire for justice, we may be sure, will continue to be the guiding spirit in international disputes to the end of time. There are of course instances where, owing to the apparent absence of any personal bias on the part of the arbitrators, it has been found possible to agree in a reference, but even in such a case it is seldom that decisions have been free from outside influence. The most recent instance is a case in point. It was left to the Swiss Republic to decide in the case of the Delagoa Bay Railway and the King of Portugal. The case was one of a nature such as comes before courts of justice almost daily; it was a simple trade contract involving no international problems, and might have been closed in a month at the outside. It was left undetermined for nine years, and afterwards decided contrary to the evidence and the law. The Arbitration Court has however, we are informed, been constituted, and at the moment a very pretty little question, or rather two or three, are on the tapis. China has committed what all allow is a crime against international law; palpably

the case ought to be tried before the International Board of Arbitrators, and counsel on each side heard; and after a fair trial the verdict be returned of guilty or not guilty. If guilty, it would of course be the proper thing to decide in the first place the penalty; and this fixed, it would follow as a matter of common justice that the penalty should be carried out by the Powers named without favour, and exactly as directed. Such a course would leave no room for private vengeance, nor for any one country attempting to gain an advantage over its neighbour. Germany lost a Minister and a few missionaries; to what relief is she entitled? America lost a good many missionaries, murdered in cold blood; what is to be the portion of the punishment to be performed by her? Russia did not lose a Minister, nor even a missionary; what should be her remedy? It is evident that if the Court is to be more than a farce it should have the power to settle these things; and not only to decide, but to have the authority and power to enforce its decisions. Then Russia could put in her claim to be compensated for the inconveniences to which she has been put, by a slice of Manchuria; and it would be the privilege of the Court to decide exactly how much, and where. So Italy could put forward a like request to be compensated by what in legal phraseology is called "mental anxiety," and so on with the others. It is very evident that it would not be for want of matter that the Court would sit idle. Russia was, it is well to remember, the first to propose the constitution of the Court. It would be a fitting time that she should be the first also to request its jurisdiction. If something of the kind do not happen, or if it should be the case that Russia has been privately trying to influence the individual members of the Court, then of course the natural conclusion is that Russia really intended the whole thing as a "fake." She has her chance: will she take it?

THE SPECIAL JURY GRIEVANCE.

(Daily Press, 3rd May.)

The question raised at the Supreme Court yesterday morning by Mr. E. OSBORNE, foreman of the special jury summoned for a small civil case, concerning a trade dispute of no vital gravity, was one of very great interest and importance to all business men in Hongkong. When the time arrived for commencement of the case, Mr. OSBORNE brought forward the following protest:—(1). Is it necessary in the interests of "justice that a special jury should be called for this case? (2). Is it in the interest "and for the benefit of the community that "we should be called upon at great personal "inconvenience, and possible loss, to devote "valuable time over a case of this kind? (3). If these questions cannot be answered "in the affirmative, we would most respect- "fully protest at being compelled to serve." Mr. OSBORNE went on to say that the case which the jury had been called upon to try was only a trivial trade dispute. His Lordship the Chief Justice could settle equally well without the aid of a jury. Mr. OSBORNE therefore asked that His Lordship should either disallow a jury in the case in question or direct that each jurymen be paid \$100 a day "to compensate for loss of time and as a check upon the legalised tyranny which members of the legal profession exercise over the leading commercial men of this Colony in their abuse of the jury system." This was a strongly worded statement of the case, but we think that the majority of our readers will agree that it is a pressing grievance which

Mr. OSBORNE complained of. The compensation which was to be given to the jury was \$15 a day, a higher sum than usual, but still one which was absurdly inadequate for the loss of time which was certain to be caused. Even in the case of a leading business man who has a partner resident in the Colony, the inconvenience and dislocation of work caused by several days' enforced attendance at the Supreme Court could not be otherwise than serious. In the case of a merchant who is the sole head of his firm, matters are of course far worse. Continued absence from his post may well be impossible for him. As it was put by one of the jury at the time, it is open for such a person to stay away from the Court and submit to the fine which would follow. But apart from the fact that the merchant would be summoned to the Supreme Court to pay this fine, there is the undignified nature of the proceeding, from which the head of a leading local firm might well shrink. And then there is the case of the principal architects, brokers, etc., to whom absence from their ordinary duties might not only mean loss of time, but also absolute loss of business, involving possibly large sums of money. Except for a matter of absolutely the first importance to the Colony it is unfair to call upon such persons to sacrifice their lawful business.

The Chief Justice met the complaint brought forward by Mr. OSBORNE in a most sympathetic manner, and released the jury from their attendance. He pointed out that a special jury in the case in question had only been summoned at the particular instance of one of the parties, the order providing for its mode of trial having directed that it should be heard before a Judge without a jury; and stated that he had made it a condition of granting the application for a jury that each jurymen should receive \$15 *per diem*. Sir JOHN CARRINGTON also mentioned that in two Colonies in which he had been, St. Lucia and British Guiana, there were no juries in civil cases, a state of affairs which was quite satisfactory to the inhabitants; and that he understood that the same rule prevailed in the Straits Settlements. His advice to the jury was that if they felt strongly in the matter they should bring their opinion under the consideration of H.E. the Governor, who could take steps, if he thought fit, to bring about a change in the law. As Chief Justice, it would be unbecoming for him to move in any way. He also mentioned that the new Code, which comes into operation on the first of July next, would reduce the right of parties to demand a jury and assimilate the practice to that prevailing in England. With this weighty expression of opinion on the part of His Lordship, those who concur in Mr. OSBORNE's complaint will feel encouraged to go on and bring their grievance before the Governor. There is no doubt that they do, as Sir JOHN CARRINGTON suggests, "feel strongly that they should not be called upon to sacrifice their time and their business interests by attending the Court for the trial of issues in civil cases." The abuse is one of considerable standing, but now that the sufferers have had the courage to express their opinions there is every reason why they should proceed to try to secure the remedy. The main difficulties, we imagine, lie in the reluctance of the judge to take the undivided responsibility in all cases and in the occasional preference of one or other party in a case that the judge should not be the sole arbiter. It has been suggested that the aid of an assessor should be requisitioned, if desired by the judge or

either party, and the success of this system in the United States Consular Courts in China, in Marine Courts of Enquiry, and elsewhere, is a strong argument in favour of the view. In any case it can hardly be imagined that legal wit is unable to devise any means of correcting the abuse undoubtedly existing at present; but the first impulse must come from the sufferers themselves.

PIRACY IN THE KWANG PROVINCES.

(Daily Press, 2nd May.)

It will have been noted that our Canton correspondent's letters lately have been mainly recitals of piracies and the exploits of brigand chiefs. It is evident from other sources too that there has been a great revival in this great curse of the West River provinces, and that the fear of the law which LI HUNG-CHANG inspired in the robber confraternity during his Viceroyalty in the Two Kwangs has now entirely passed. Burglaries of the most daring description, such as that chronicled by our correspondent, holdings-up of ships, and blackmailing of officials, military and civil, are once more rife. H.E. TAO MU, though he has shown himself in many ways a wise and honourable official since he came to Canton, does not seem able to cope with the situation. The disorderly elements which embraced the opportunity offered by the Triad rising last year, and were put down with their comrades in arms by the Imperial troops, seem to have recovered their courage and taken again to the profitable pursuit of brigandage by land and water. Arms-smuggling, we learn, is being carried on busily at Wuchow and along the West River, and rumours are heard of another rising. There is a good deal of unrest in the neighbourhood of our own New Territory boundary, and Samchun, that hotbed of disorder, which the British Government decided to leave as a thorn in our side, requires careful watching. We may be sure that our local authorities are giving full attention to the matter, but the Chinese officials seem supine. Good results have been obtained before now by the co-operation of the British and Chinese, and we hope that at the present time the Viceroy at Canton may be urged to show more vigour, and may be assured that he can count on our help. Piracy has always been a serious menace to Hongkong trade, in spite of what Consular Reports may say, and disorders in Kwangtung are still more dangerous to us now with our new frontier on the mainland.

A SUGGESTION FOR THE NEW TERRITORY.

(Daily Press, 2nd May.)

In Mr. W. J. TUTCHER's report on the Botanical and Afforestation Department during last year, some remarks with regard to the New Territory are well worth serious consideration. Mr. TUTCHER advocates the establishment of an Experimental Garden, as there is, he says, a considerable quantity of agricultural land in the New Territory. He strongly recommends the establishment of a garden of this kind for testing economic plants likely to succeed in the district. The Chinese themselves are not likely to take the initiative in introducing new industries; but, he continues, if the Botanical and Afforestation Department were to show them that certain plants could be grown with success, no doubt the natives would then take to cultivating such plants. He points out that the Japanese in Formosa have already established experimental stations, and the French at Kwaichauwan, and the

Germans at Kiaochau have also under consideration similar schemes. There are many kinds of fruits which could be grown, and if this were done we should not only have better varieties than those already in the market (a most desirable consummation), but new kinds as well. We hope to see this recommendation of Mr. TUTCHER adopted, for the cost will only be small, the benefits derived may be considerable, and there will be one more small advantage from our possession of the New Territory to set against its heavy expenses.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS]

SHANGHAI, 28th April, 8 p.m.

A great funeral procession took place to-day at Peking in honour of the three Tsungli Yamen ministers murdered by Prince Tuan.

A Peking telegram brings news of an engagement between the Germans and Chinese beyond Hunan. The Chinese were driven out of the pass which they were holding. Ten Germans were killed and six wounded.

An official statement to the effect that a regency is established is regarded as the last effort of the Chinese Court to save its face and to throttle reform.

SHANGHAI, 2nd May.

It is reported that Russia demands from China, in order to compensate her for the non-signature of the Manchurian Convention: (1) a rectification of the Kuldja frontier; (2) a stip of Western Tibet; (3) a concession of the Amur gold-mines.

Hsianfu despatches report that the Empress Dowager was determined to degrade the Heir Apparent for improper conduct, but that Lu Chuan-lin having pleaded for mercy his petition was granted.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

On Thursday, 2nd inst., afternoon, a meeting of the Sanitary Board was held. The President (Hon. W. Chatham, Acting Director of Public Works) occupied the chair, and there were also present the Vice-President (Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.), Dr. Bell (Principal Civil Medical Officer of Health), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Lieut-Col. Hughes, R.A.M.C., Mr. E. Osborne, Mr. A. W. Brewin (Registrar General), Mr. Fung Wa Chin, Mr. Chan A Fook, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary to the Board).

COMMITTEE OF HEALTH'S REPORT.

The report of the Hon. F. H. May and Mr. E. Osborne, the committee appointed by the Board to report on that of the Medical Officer of Health for 1900, was as follows:—

"We have considered the annual report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1900, and have to make the following remarks upon it:

2. Reduction of Excessive Height of Buildings.

—The Sub-Committee of the Board which is reporting on sanitary improvements has made a recommendation on this subject which has been forwarded to Government, after being adopted by the Board.

3. Resumption of Insanitary or Obstructive Buildings.

—The same remarks apply to this question.

4. Urgent Need of Urinals.—In June last year a sub-committee consisting of the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Lawson, Mr. McKie, and Mr. Osborne, made a report on this subject and recommended sites for 13 urinals. This is a subject which the Board should continue to urge on the Government, as the need for more urinals is becoming more and more pressing.

5. We are of opinion that the time has arrived to put a stop to the practice of depositing moribund infants at the doors of the convents. A watchman on duty at night would be an easy means of preventing this somewhat barbarous practice.

6. European Reservation in the New Territory.

—The Sanitary Improvements Sub-Committee have made a recommendation on this subject.

The following minutes were appended:—

The President: "Please circulate. I think, in view of the recent epidemic of smallpox, some recommendations should go forward from the Board on lines such as these suggested by the M. O. H. in his report."

Mr. Osborne: "Depositing infants dying of infectious disease at the doors of a convent prevent all possibility of discovering the source of infection, and does not afford the infant much chance of recovery."

Mr. A. W. Brewin: "I do not see that the practice of taking a moribund infant to a convent is any more barbarous than taking a moribund adult to the Tung Wa Hospital. The Board had better clear its mind of cant and attend to its own business. A watchman on duty at the convent might prevent children from being brought there, but would not prevent them from dying."

Dr. BELL took objection to the remarks made by the Registrar General in his minute, which were practically to the effect that the Sanitary Board was to mind its own business.

Mr. BREWIN—Excuse me, I said members of the Sanitary Board.

Dr. BELL contended that Mr. Brewin used the word "Board," which he took to include himself. It was the business of the Sanitary Board to enquire into this matter. He had been told that the love a mother had for her children was one of the finest principles in human nature, but it seemed a curious thing that mothers would let their children contract a disease entirely due to neglect, and then do nothing for them, till they ultimately died and were pitch forked anywhere into the street. If that practice was not barbarous, he did not know what the word meant. An endeavour should be made to get these people to take their children, in the early stages of the disease, to places where they could be looked after, and where 75 per cent. might recover. In concluding, Dr. BELL reiterated that in his opinion the Registrar General was out of order in telling them, in a matter of that sort, to mind their own business. It was their business, and they had to mind it.

Mr. OSBORNE thought that one of the most striking passages in the Medical Officer of Health's report was the statement that out of 1,000 Chinese infants born in this colony only 72 survive for a period of twelve months. That statement, if it had not come from an official source, would hardly be credible, and he thought it their duty not only to endeavour to rescue some of these infants from death, but to trace the source of infection. That was the only possible way to stamp out plague—to trace the source of infection, and so long as these infants were placed at the doors of convents by persons unknown, they could not hope to trace the source of infection. He believed with Dr. Bell that it was their duty to take the matter up.

The PRESIDENT was of opinion that the desire was general amongst the members that steps be taken to put a stop to the practice, if it were at all possible. It seemed to him a very questionable expedient to put watchmen on duty at these convents at night, for the reason that if it became known to these people that they ran the risk of being followed and having enquiries made about them, they would resort to the practice of dumping bodies in quiet streets or elsewhere. He moved "that the Board adopt the annual report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1900, and forward copies to the Colonial Secretary, for the information of H.E. the Governor, and that the attention of the Government be drawn to the marked falling-off in the number of vaccinations during the past two years."

Mr. OSBORNE thought they should do something themselves in the matter without referring it to the Government. He would go so far as to place a resolution before the meeting "that the Board approach the convents with a view to ascertaining whether they can offer suggestions as to the best means of carrying out the suggestions of the committee in paragraph 5 of the report."

Dr. BELL seconded, and suggested that the proposal be embodied in the President's resolution.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN agreed with Mr. Osborne's remarks. The ladies at the convents were anxious that these institutions should be taken advantage of as a home for sick children. As to having a watchman at the door of each, the convent authorities might have objections on that point.

The President's motion, with Mr. OSBORNE'S amendment added, was put to the meeting and carried.

DUMPING DEAD BODIES IN THE STREET.

Correspondence was submitted relative to the dumping of dead bodies in the street. On the 22nd ult., Dr. Clark wrote to the Colonial Secretary to the effect that it had been alleged by the Medical Officer in charge of the Tung Wah Hospital that the Chinese were being frightened away from that institution by a European and some Chinese and Indian constables stationed there by the Board, and that the Chinese were consequently putting the bodies in the street. These officers were withdrawn a month ago, but without achieving the desired result. Dr. Clark asked if the police could do something to prevent this wholesale dumping of dead bodies into the streets, and suggested that eight young and energetic European constables could make a thorough house-to-house inspection once a week of the Wanchai district. Dr. Clark pointed out that his suggestion in a letter dated 28th January did not appear to have been acted upon, and it was quite impossible to stay the progress of an epidemic when no information was forthcoming as to the addresses of a large percentage of the cases. The suggestion referred to was to the effect that, with a view to preventing the depositing of dead bodies in the streets at night, the police patrol of the Wanchai district be augmented for the time being by swearing in as special constables perhaps fifty Indians belonging to one of the native regiments stationed here, these men, further, to be controlled by a mounted European officer who should visit each of them at least once every hour.

The following minutes were appended:—

Hon. F. H. May: "In the absence of the slightest assistance from the community it is very difficult to stop this practice. I have tried special patrols without result. The people watch the police go by, and as several families generally occupy one house, all that has to be done is to put the body out in front of the house and then for all the inmates to deny all knowledge of it. I have now offered a reward of \$2 for every case of depositing a body brought by the police. I think the house nearest to the place the body is found, in Victoria at any rate, should be disinfected, or take the nearest three houses and see how the Chinese like that."

Mr. E. Osborne: "Disinfect the six houses on each side of the corpse on both sides of lane. If that doesn't stop it, fine the occupants."

Mr. A. W. Brewin: "Fining the occupants would be preferable to disinfection. To make disinfection a punishment will only make it more obnoxious to the Chinese. The Government should be asked to request the Government of India for information as to the method of combating the plague in that country. I believe that there was there the same united opposition to the enforcement of sanitary measures as there is here."

Mr. OSBORNE was of opinion that this was a matter upon which their Chinese colleagues on the Board might express their views. It was also a matter on which the Board had received absolutely no assistance from the leading Chinese. Whatever had been done in the way of stamping out that curse, plague, had met with Chinese objections. The Chinese didn't like this and they didn't like that—in fact, everything done was obnoxious to them. Under these circumstances the Chinese members of the Board might express their views.

Mr. CHAN A FOOK said he was sorry to contradict Mr. Osborne's statement that the respectable Chinese class had not come forward to help the Sanitary Board in the matter of dumping dead bodies in the streets. He knew it to be a fact that the Chinese Commercial Union had spent a lot of money in printing and distributing circulars and handbills, containing translations of the rules and regulations, to Chinese coolies and others, and they also engaged several Chinese students from the Alice Memorial Hospital to explain to these

people matters they were not likely to readily understand. With regard to the dumping of bodies, no one could have more objection to the practice than the people living in the vicinity where a body was found, and it appeared to be very hard that these people should be made to pay the penalty. Why make the innocent suffer for the guilty? Was any distinction to be made between Chinese and other nationalities? Suppose a dead body were found in front of a house occupied by a European, would that house and the one on the other side of the street be disinfected?

Mr. OSBORNE—Yes.

Mr. CHAN A FOOK—If that is the case, I think it is very hard for Chinese as well as Europeans.

Dr. BELL said some measure ought to be adopted to stop the reprehensible practice. It was quite impossible to combat an epidemic unless taken from its source. He advocated the fining of the occupants of the houses on each side of the street, and did not think that would be imposing a hardship upon anyone. There was absolutely no question in his mind that these bodies were carried from a distance. A dead man could not be carried over twenty yards in the night without being seen by somebody, and therefore the body must come from one of the adjacent houses—probably from the house directly opposite to where the body was found. Most of these bodies, he was sure, came from Chinese lodging-houses. The keeper must be aware that he had a sick lodger; a man with plague did not die suddenly, and these keepers knew well that if it became known a plague case occurred on their premises, the house would be disinfected. To prevent this, the sick man was bundled out at the first opportunity and left to die in the street. He was in favour of the suggestion to disinfect the houses opposite, and thought that would stir these people to keep a watchman to see where the body came from. The practice, unless vigorously dealt with, would continue until someone got ten years' hard labour or perhaps was hung. He believed that the leading Chinese had tried to do something to ameliorate the evil, but it was an evil that required, as he had already said, the most stringent remedies.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN did not agree with the suggestion to disinfect the houses opposite to where a body was discovered. He himself had seen, close to Mr. Chater's house, the dead body of an infant, and that could not possibly have come from Mr. Chater's house. (Laughter.) As to what Dr. Bell had said regarding the improbability of a dead body having been carried more than twenty or thirty yards, it was just as easy to carry it that distance as to carry it ten feet.

Dr. BELL—Have you tried it?

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN replied that he had not. Continuing, he said the best plan would be to station detectives and policemen at the corners of streets in infected areas. This would prevent dead bodies from being carried from one street into another. If a bye-law were introduced to disinfect the places right opposite where a body was picked up he thought it would be very unreasonable.

Mr. MAY explained that to disinfect a house, unless that house was found to be unclean, would not be legal. As regarded the stationing of policemen at corners, as suggested by one member, he wished to remind the Board that there was a limit to the number of policemen. They had not a standing army of policemen to watch at street corners for dead bodies. He had done his best, and he confessed that he had failed. He concluded by suggesting that the Board recommend the Government to take powers to levy a fine not exceeding \$50 upon the occupants of houses persons nearest to the place where a body with infectious disease was found, in any of the streets of the City of Victoria and in the villages of Yaumatei and Hunghom.

Mr. OSBORNE—Would you give them twenty-four hours to trace the guilty party before fining?

Lieut.-Col. HUGHES—Why not fine the whole street? I think the best suggestion made is that of Mr. Fung Wa Chun. Plague is an exceptional thing, consequently it wants exceptional treatment. You want more help—you want to employ more hands,

whether detectives, or special constables, or anything else you like to call them. I certainly think his the best proposed yet made.

The PRESIDENT, in seconding Mr. May's motion, endorsed all that gentlemen had said, but thought that some exemption should be observed in the case of the dead bodies of children, which could be carried a considerable distance. He also agreed with Dr. Bell regarding the unlikelihood of the dead body of an adult having been carried any considerable distance.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN saw no reason why the Government should not employ more people.

Dr. BELL—They can't do it for nothing.

Dr. CLARK said the original suggestion he made to the Government was that they engage a number of Indian soldiers and station them at the corners of streets. He thought that scheme far better than the one to disinfect the neighbouring houses. Only the year before last the body of a plague victim was found right at the door of the Secretary of the Sanitary Board's house, and that happened to be almost opposite the Central Police Station, in Wyndham Street. He really thought the best plan was to engage the Indian soldiers and also to fine people when they caught them.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—Why not offer a reward of \$10 to detectives?

Lieut.-Col. HUGHES—Yes.

Dr. CLARK again rose and suggested that every body found in the street should be cremated.

Dr. BELL did not think cremation would have any effect.

Mr. OSBORNE said that the Chinese banded together in other directions—why not carry that custom a little farther and station watchmen in the street, if they did not want to be fined.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN explained that in Canton, where these customs obtained, the people had no taxes to pay. In Hongkong they paid 13 per cent. He thought it was the Government's duty to engage more people. They could very well afford it, as they had netted three lakhs of dollars more for the opium farm this year than for last year.

Mr. OSBORNE proposed an additional amendment to the effect "that the rates of the tenants of the twelve houses nearest to a dead body, in streets or sections of streets, be doubled for the quarter, unless the guilty person is forthcoming."

Dr. BELL—I second that. It is no great hardship, because some person told me that it is already done in Ireland, and therefore the Chinese cannot say—"Oh, here's a case of bullying us." What is done in Ireland can be done in Hongkong.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN moved another amendment, "that the Government be asked to offer a reward of \$10 to anyone who can give information leading to the apprehension of parties throwing dead bodies into the streets, and that policemen and detectives be stationed at street corners in the infected areas."

Mr. CHAN A FOOK seconded, but on a vote the amendment was lost.

Mr. OSBORNE'S amendment was then put to the meeting and carried.

Mr. MAY'S motion was not put.

PROPOSED ADDITIONAL ROOM OVER SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' CLUB.

Correspondence was submitted relating to an application for permission to construct a small room over the backyard of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Club.

The first part of it was a letter dated 18th April from the Rev. C. Bone, in which the Director of Public Works was asked for permission to build one small room over part of the vacant space at the end of the building. The letter stated that the Home, as was probably already known, was surrounded on all sides by an empty space, and there appeared no probability that the proprietors of the Royal Naval Canteen would build over the wide alley-way between their property and the Home. It was only desired to build over about one third of the yard, and to arrange for one room facing the street on a level with the first floor, so that there would yet remain a big space underneath. The room was required for the caretaker of the Home, and a great deal depended on their receiving the Board's sanction to erect it.

The second part of the correspondence consisted of a letter, dated 22nd April, from the Acting Director of Public Works (Hon. W. Chatham) to the Colonial Secretary, in which he forwarded the Rev. C. Bone's application. This letter pointed out that there were certain difficulties in the way of granting the desired permission. The space on the east side of the building formed part of Marine Lot No. 65, and might be built over at some future date by the owner of that lot. On the West and North sides there would be public roads, 75 feet in width, when the widening of Arsenal Street and the Eastern Reclamation scheme had been carried out. The greatest difficulty in the way of granting Mr. Bone's request lay in the fact that the lot was sold subsequent to 1887, and was therefore subject to the requirements of section 66 of Ordinance 24 of 1887. In view of that section, Mr. Chatham did not see how Mr. Bone's request could be granted, though, from a sanitary point of view, there was no objection to its being granted.

The following minutes were appended:—

Lieut.-Col. Hughes: "The erection might be permitted as an exceptional case."

Mr. Fung Wa Chuen: "This may be allowed, provided there is no sanitary objection. But would not this mean creating a precedent?"

Mr. Chan A Fook: "I agree with the views expressed by Mr. Fung Wa Chuen."

Mr. E. Osborne: "There is no sanitary objection, and the erection should be permitted. If the law does not allow it, the law should be altered to meet such instances."

Mr. A. W. Brewin: "There must be always a certain number of hard cases under every law. The occurrence of a single case is scarcely sufficient reason for amending the law."

Quite a lengthy discussion ensued on this matter, but the application did not receive any measure of support.

The PRESIDENT moved that it be refused, on the ground that it was contrary to the Ordinance.

Dr. BELL seconded, and the motion was carried.

THE VERANDAH QUESTION.

On the 8th March a discussion, which was fully reported in the *Daily Press* columns, took place at a meeting of the Sanitary Board on the question of the use of verandahs as living rooms, etc. In consequence of what was said, the Governor recommended that Mr. Tooker and Dr. Clark should be asked to amend the Verandah Regulations, so as to admit of the erection of partitions; and that, after the proposed amendments had been submitted to and approved by the Attorney-General, they should be substituted for the existing rules in the new Sanitary Bill.

The matter was accordingly considered by Mr. Tooker and Dr. Clark, in conjunction with the Hon. H. E. Pollock, Acting Attorney-General, and the following amendment to section 35 of the New Buildings Bill was proposed: "No partition, other than such as may, in the opinion of the Director of Public Works, be necessary for the separation of the verandah or balcony of any adjacent building shall be erected or maintained in any verandah or balcony over Crown land."

The PRESIDENT—It is intended to amend the clause in the New Buildings Ordinance to provide for the dividing of verandahs.

APPLICATION FROM THOMAS'S GRILL ROOMS.

An application was heard for the erection of two water-closets and three urinals at Thomas's Grill Rooms.

In a report, Mr. J. J. Bryan, sanitary surveyor, saw no objection to the application being granted, provided that the old drains were in good condition. This he should insist on before allowing a new connection.

The following minutes were appended:—

Mr. E. Osborne: "Grant subject to Surveyor's recommendation being complied with."

Mr. A. W. Brewin: "No closets or urinals should be connected with the drains unless (1) they have a water-supply independent of the public water-supply, or (2) there is a reasonable assurance that the public water-supply will not be cut off for a month or more at a time."

Dr. Clark: "I agree with the Registrar-General."

Dr. CLARK thought that the application should be refused. They could not afford to be reckless with their water. Since 1897 the population had increased by 35,000, but

the water supply had not kept pace with that increase.

Mr. BREWIN seconded.

Dr. BELL asked the President to explain whether it would be an expensive matter for hotels to sink their own wells and draw water from the sea. If it was reasonable, then he should say—let them have it for their urinals.

The PRESIDENT was afraid that the plan, though feasible, would be an expensive one.

The application was refused. Dr. BELL did not vote.

LIME-WASHING RETURNS.

The lime-washing returns for the fortnight ended 29th April showed that in the Central district, out of a total of 3,486 houses, 1,022 had been lime-washed. Nothing was done in the Eastern and Western districts. There were no prosecutions.

WATER AT LAI CHI KOK.

On the 16th ult., Mr. A. G. Woodcock, Acting Secretary to the Sanitary Board, forwarded a request to the Acting Colonial Secretary (Hon. T. Sercombe Smith), that the Government Analyst be instructed to analyse a sample of water sent to him that morning by the Medical Officer of Health, and to report if it was suitable for potable purposes. The sample was spring water from the aqueduct at Lai Chi Kok which supplies shipping.

Mr. T. Browne, Government Analyst, analysed the water, and found it fit for the purposes indicated.

SHEDS ON MARINE LOTS IN KENNEDYTOWN.

On 13th March a number of people residing at Kennedytown were brought before the Magistrate and fined \$10 for having their mat-sheds in an insanitary condition; they were further ordered to remove the sheds or put them in a cleanly condition. In this connection the following petition has reached the Sanitary Board and has been circulated amongst the members:—"Lai Yeung and eight others, long resident at Pat Shek Tong Tsui, state that on the broths moving there the rent rose tenfold and beyond petitioners' means. Lai Po Lung then granted them the free use of ground (locality stated) on the hillside near Kennedytown. They have put up houses with great difficulty, which were blown down by the typhoon in November. These were re-erected in accordance with the Sanitary Board regulations—the eaves nine feet from the ground and the floor concreted, with windows on four sides for light and ventilation. Unexpectedly this year a Sanitary Board officer directed them to pull down the houses, otherwise they would have to spend much money on them. Being poor, with no money for constant changes, petitioners must pawn their clothes, sell their daughters, and lose all their effects to do this, as they have already once built and once repaired. Their plans are exhausted, their strength finished. If they pull them down, where can they go? Their families will be scattered. Petitioners ask for a special favour and that the petition may be transmitted to H. E. the Governor, and that he will so direct the Sanitary Board that they be not required to take down their houses, or repair them."

The following minutes were appended:—

Mr. A. W. Brewin: "I recommend that these people be given ample notice to quit, if they cannot be permitted to remain in the premises now occupied by them. A notice of three or four months will not endanger the health of the colony. When the squatters were removed from East Point compensation was given them, I believe."

Dr. Clark: "I strongly recommend that this Board do not interfere with the decision of the magistrate. These sheds have quite recently been erected without authority, and are most insanitary. They should be removed at once, as advised by the magistrate. The last part of Mr. Brewin's minute shows exactly what the Government are expected to do if this sort of thing is permitted to occur. A man puts up a dirty and most insanitary shed on a plot of land to which he has no claim; it is overlooked by the officers of the Sanitary Board for two or three years, and then, when an attempt is made to remove him, he claims squatters' compensation. It is high time that this sort of thing should be put a stop to, and that these people should be cleared out as soon as they are discovered."

The President: "If anything will be gained by circulating these papers to members, please do

so. Personally, I entirely agree with the M.O.H.'s views expressed in his minute. I notice the Registrar-General addresses the Board, so please circulate."

Mr. A. W. Brewin: "Ignorance of the law is always accepted as a good plea by reasonable persons, although legally not an admissible plea. To turn these people out on a week's notice would be an outrageous thing to do, and would not be attempted in England. What officer of the Board is responsible for these huts being put up? They could not have been built in a night. It is not possible for members of the Board to get rid of their responsibility by sheltering themselves behind the magistrate's decision. I repeat what I wrote before—that ample notice (three or four months) should be given these people to quit, and that the health of the colony—which is what the Board has to consider—will not be endangered thereby."

Lieut.-Col. Hughes: "If, as is reported, these sheds were erected without authority, and are most insanitary, I agree with the M. O. H. not to interfere."

Mr. Chan A Fook: "I don't think it advisable to interfere with the magistrate's decision."

Mr. Fung Wa Chuen: "I think one week's notice is too short."

Mr. E. Osborne: "I quite agree with M.O.H. There is already too much consideration given to the so-called poverty of such people. They seem to be able to find plenty of money for their funeral and marriage customs, but when it is a question of obeying the laws of the colony, their poverty is paraded *ad nauseum*."

Dr. Clark: "It is not a question of a week's notice; the people were warned more than three months ago, and have ignored repeated instructions to move."

Hon. F. H. May: "The matter is out of our hands, and has been dealt with by the magistrate. If the people want extension, the magistrate may be able to meet them. We cannot vary his order."

Dr. BELL—We are not a court of appeal. They must take it to the Supreme Court or leave it alone.

Dr. CLARK—I move that the application be refused.

Mr. MAY seconded, and the motion was carried.

MORTALITY STATISTICS FOR THE COLONY.

The mortality statistics for the Colony for the weeks ended 13th April and 20th April show rates of 18.6 and 18.2 per 1,000, as against 19.6 and 26.5 for the corresponding weeks of last year.

Dr. CLARK said that plague was greatly on the increase, and he moved that the whole City of Victoria be declared infected.

Mr. OSBORNE seconded, and the motion was carried.

CONCRETING GROUND SURFACES.

An application for exemption from concreting the ground surfaces of Nos. 38 and 39, Praya East, was read.

The application was granted, so long as the premises are used as a public-house.

APPLICATION TO ERECT WATER-CLOSETS.

An application for permission to erect water-closets at No. 7, Arbutnot Road was refused.

This was all the business.

The belated Shanghai papers now to hand contain accounts on Mr. Alec Marsh's concert at the Lyceum on the 23rd ult. The concert seems to have proved an unquestionable success, Mr. Marsh being heartily cheered at the close. The *N. C. Daily News* says:—"Including encores, he sang seven pieces, all admirably, his splendid baritone voice and perfect method being thoroughly enjoyed. His first selection, the prologue from *I Pagliacci*, was a splendid piece of declamation; then came Sullivan's beautiful song 'The Sailor's Grave,' with the humorous old 'Leather Bottell' as an encore; in the second part Mr. Marsh gave Pinetti's 'The King's Minstrel,' most dramatically sung; Clayton Thomas's 'Japanese Love Song,' a pretty ditty, but hardly worthy of the singer, with 'The Owl' as an encore; and 'The Toreador' from *Carmen* grandly delivered." The *Mercury*, though not quite so favourable, says:—"That he is a great acquisition to the ranks of our music-providers is beyond doubt, and we look forward with pleasurable feelings to hearing still more of his fine voice and training."

THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO MACAO.

H.E. Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G., went to Macao on the 30th ult., in the torpedo-destroyer *Janus*, accompanied by his Private Secretary, Mr. R. F. Johnston, and Lieut. A. Blake, A.D.C. They arrived shortly before noon, and after the guns of the Macao forts had replied to the salute of the *Janus*, H.E. was welcomed before going ashore by Mr. Seaton, the British Vice-Consul, and a number of Colonial officials. A guard of honour awaited His Excellency on landing, and the British National Anthem was played as the party, accompanied by Lieut. Corbett, commanding the *Janus*, proceeded to Government House. There His Excellency was received by the Governor of Macao and Madame Hortas e Costa, and at one o'clock a large number of prominent civil and military officials were duly presented to H.E. At 2 o'clock the following party sat down to lunch:—H.E. Sr. José M. de S. Horta e Costa, Governor of Macao and Portuguese Minister Plenipotentiary to China; Lady Hortas e Costa; H.E. Sir Henry A. Blake, Governor of Hongkong; Mr. F. O. Seaton, British Vice-Consul at Macao; Mr. R. F. Johnston, Private Secretary, and Lieut. Blake, A.D.C. to the Governor of Hongkong; Lieut. Corbett, Commander of H.M. *Janus*; Chief Justice Albano de Magalhães; Chief of the Military Department, Lieutenant-Colonel Costas e Andrade; Attorney General, Sr. Mendes Pinheiro; Inspector of Revenue Office, Sr. Fontoura de Carvalho; President of Municipal Chamber, Sr. Nolasco da Silva; Colonial Surgeon, Dr. Gomes da Silva; Colonial Secretary, Sr. Alfredo Pinto Lello; General and Mrs. Pinheiro Silveira; Commander of the Expeditionary Forces, Gen. Moraes Bessa; Commander of the Macao Infantry Souza Brito; Harbour Master, Lieut. J. C. Alcobia, Royal Portuguese Navy; Chief Ordnance Officer, Captain Durao, R.A.; Naval Surgeon, Dr. Gonsalves Pereira. Royal Portuguese Navy; Lieutenant Tristao de Carvalhas, A.D.C.; Mrs. Tristao de Carvalhas; and Lieutenant Mario G. Homen, A.D.C.

H.E. the Governor of Macao, who spoke in English, proposed the toast of the day in the following terms:—

Sir,—I beg to express to Your Excellency my deepest and most sincere gratitude towards Your Excellency, who has deigned as a representative of His Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor to visit this Portuguese colony. I am quite sure of being a faithful interpreter of all the inhabitants of Macao in assuring Your Excellency that our feelings towards the great English people are still, and I hope they will always be, as sympathetic as they have been during past centuries. Therefore in the name of this colony, and as a representative of His Most Faithful Majesty the King of Portugal Don Carlos the First, I have the honour of asking you to drink to the health of His Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor, Edward the Seventh. "God Save the King" was played as the company rose to do honour to the toast.

H.E. the Governor of Hongkong responded as follows:—

Your Excellency—I thank you for your most kind expressions of personal good-will and for the assurance of the feelings of friendship by which our respective nations have been animated for centuries. I come as the representative of the King-Emperor to express to Your Excellency the grateful acknowledgment of the Colony of Hongkong of the marked sympathy shown by your Excellency in our late great sorrow. In the name of the Colony of Hongkong I thank your Excellency, and I assure your Excellency that the feelings of friendship expressed by you are warmly reciprocated by the people of the British Empire. Here in the ancient Colony of Macao, where British trade was fostered in years gone by under the folds of the Portuguese flag, it is fitting that these old feelings of close friendship should be emphasised. As the representative of the King of England I raise my glass to the health of his most Faithful Majesty King Carlos the First. The Portuguese National Anthem was played, while the company drank the health of King Carlos.

Shortly after 4 o'clock His Excellency returned to the *Janus*, being accompanied to the landing stage on the Praya by the Governor of Macao, and left with his suite for Hongkong.

THE STRANDED "SOBRAON."

Thursday.

The latest news from the scene of the wreck is of a more reassuring character, and the hope is entertained that the liner will yet be successfully floated. Two telegrams have been received in the colony—one by the P. & O. agents and the other by Commodore F. Powell, R.N. The first, which was sent by Captain Goddard, states briefly that the steamer *Coromandel* had arrived with pumps and divers, and that after a consultation between Mr. Mackenzie, who is in charge of the pumps and gear, and the captains of H.M. sloop *Humber*, H.M.S. *Daphne*, and the *Coromandel*, it was decided to attempt to raise the steamer. The telegram received by Commodore Powell was from H.M.S. *Daphne*, and stated that when the *Sobraon* is pumped out and lightened there is a chance of saving her. This telegram also mentioned that the assistance of two cruisers was required, and H.M.S. *Hermione* has been despatched full speed to Tung Yung Island. H.M.S. *Blenheim*, which was proceeding to Woosung, has also been instructed to call at Tung Yung.

The China Merchants' steamer *Irene*, having on board all silk baggage and parcels taken from the *Sobraon*, is proceeding to Hongkong.

The following is the substance of the telegram received from Captain Goddard:—

Coromandel arrived with pumps and divers; after consultation, Mackenzie (in charge of pumps and gear), Captain of H.M.S. *Humber*, H.M.S. *Daphne*, and s.s. *Coromandel* decided attempt raise steamer. All silk baggage and parcels proceeding *Irene*. Weather favourable.

The China Merchants S.N. Company state that the *Irene* is proceeding to Hongkong.

Commodore F. Powell, R.N., also received a telegram from H.M.S. *Daphne* at Sharp Peak to the following effect:—

"*Humber* arrived, required for some time; when *Sobraon* is lightened cargo, coal, and pumped out, with assistance of two cruisers, there is a chance of saving her."

From the foregoing it will be seen that the most active steps are in progress for the saving of the *Sobraon*. The case on the face of it is one of great emergency. There is the ever-present possibility of the weather changing, and that, too, to a quarter least to be desired. Mr. Ritchie, the local superintendent of the P. & O., is of the belief that this contingency is mainly responsible for the operations now decided on, and that the intention is to cement the ship's bottom and tow her into deep water.

Friday.

The P. & O. office here was in receipt of various telegrams on the 2nd inst., but the only one of importance was that which stated the divers had examined the bottom of the ship, and that their report as to its condition was very favourable.

A portable engine had evidently been brought into requisition, as it was further stated that the pumps and boilers were at work on board the *Sobraon*.

The weather continues to be absolutely calm.

DETAILS FROM THE "IRENE'S" OFFICERS.

The local agents of the P. & O. S.N. Company had no fresh information to report on Friday regarding the stranded liner *Sobraon*. They were in receipt of a number of telegrams, but the news contained therein was merely a repetition and enlargement of what has already been published. The majority of the *Sobraon's* passengers are coming on by the *Balla* at.

The China Merchants' steamer *Irene*, having on board silk and treasure saved from the *Sobraon*, arrived here on Thursday night from Tung Yung Island, and after anchoring overnight in Kowloon Bay, entered the harbour on Friday morning at daylight and proceeded to her anchorage.

With a view of gleanings all information possible regarding the *Sobraon*, a representative of the *Daily Press* boarded the *Irene* in the early part of the forenoon, and found all hands busy unloading and taking in cargo. The captain and chief officer were ashore at the offices of the agents, but the second officer was on board, and offered no objections to being interviewed. His narrative was as follows:—

"It was on the 26th ult., at 4.10 in the morning, that we sighted Tung Yung Island. The

morning was pretty dark, and we were proceeding somewhat slowly, when I noticed the glimmering of lights on the island. I was on deck at the time, as it was my watch; the captain was with me. We thought at first the lights were those on board fishing-junks, and did not pay very great heed to them. A couple of minutes past four o'clock some signal rockets went up from what we now know was the *Sobraon*. We saw she was in a bad way, but the captain would not go right up, deeming it too risky; so we kept going round, waiting for daylight. There was a north-east swell at the time. At six o'clock, when the weather had cleared sufficiently, the chief officer went off in a boat and boarded the *Sobraon*, the captain of which asked the *Irene* to stand by. We stood by all day on the 26th, and saw the *Sobraon's* passengers, who were camped on shore. On the 27th we took all their baggage on board the *Irene*, and still continued to lay to near the *Sobraon*. The wind on that day was from the north-east, with a moderate north swell; foggy. On the 28th we determined to save all we possibly could from the *Sobraon*, and so we took from her all the silver and silk she had on board and transferred it to the *Irene*. We took all the passengers on board too, and gave up our rooms to them—the captain, officers, and engineers."

"In what position was the *Sobraon*?"—"She was lying over to the starboard side—pretty well over."

"Was her position precarious?"—"Very precarious indeed, for had a north-east gale started to blow she would have broken up in three hours. I don't think she could be ashore in a worse place."

"Was the *Irene* the first steamer to sight the *Sobraon*?"—"Yes, we were the first. There were any number of junks lying around; I believe I could have counted a hundred; they came on the 28th April. On the 29th the P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*, one Chinese steamer, and two men-of-war arrived at Tung Yung. We sent our third commodore on board the *Coromandel* to act as translator. He was very useful, because he was the only one who could talk the particular Chinese dialect spoken there. On that day, too, all the passengers we had taken on board were transferred to the *Coromandel*. On the 30th April we saw we could do nothing more, and at 4.25 in the afternoon we hove up and proceeded for Hongkong. Before we left I might mention that the chief officer and the third commodore of the *Irene* tried to get hold of a junk to take a portable engine from the *Coromandel* to the *Sobraon*."

"Did they get the engine on board?"—"I can't say, because as soon as the chief officer came on board we made for Hongkong."

"What was the weather like then?"—"It was very foggy, but otherwise was good."

"Do you think the *Sobraon* will be saved?"—"No, I do not. Her head is right in between two rocks and her stern jammed up against one of them. But for the fact that her stern is so jammed I believe she would have gone right over at once."

"Were you on board the *Sobraon*?"—"No, but I saw it all from the hillside."

"What is the nature of the approaches to Tung Yung?"—"Well, outside the water is thirty fathoms deep, but where the *Sobraon* is lying I don't think it can be more than twenty feet, or twenty-five at the outside."

"What have you on board that you took from the *Sobraon*?"—"We have 820 packages of silk, each package worth about £120 and a lot of silver, besides passengers' luggage."

"It's a queer thing," concluded our informant as we rose to go, "the *Sobraon* was just a year old the day before she struck."

The *Irene* was boarded again in the afternoon, when another of the officers was interviewed. His story was practically similar to that of the second officer, with a few fresh details added as to salvage, etc. He said:—

"As soon as we saw the signals, which I at first had difficulty in making out, owing to fog, the captain lowered a boat from the *Irene* and sent the chief officer in charge to ascertain if any assistance was required. The *Irene* proceeded round to South Bay—by the way, the *Sobraon* was ashore in West Bay—and lay at anchor to await the boat. At 8.20 a.m. the boat returned, having in tow one of the *Sobraon's* boats, in which were a number of natives. The chief officer brought back word to the effect that the

steamer was the *Sobraon*, and that the captain wished the *Irene* to stand by to receive mails, passengers, and crew. We stood by, and took on the passengers and crew."

"How many passengers?"—"Forty-seven. The crew, I think, numbered 213."

"How long did you keep them?"—"The crew were on board the *Irene* for five days—all the time we stood by—and the passengers for three days. Captain Wibner, of the *Sobraon*, slept in the cabin of the captain of the *Irene*."

"You wouldn't have much room left for yourselves?"—"No; we had to give up all our rooms and sleep on deck. The *Coromandel* arrived on 29th April, and we transferred the passengers and their baggage to her. On the 30th we transferred the crew to the *Coromandel* and the *Irene* left for Hongkong at 4.30 p.m. on the same day."

"Now, about the *Sobraon*—is she in a bad plight?"—"I think she is. Her starboard propeller is gone, and there are two blades off the port propeller. There are rocks all round her, practically, and there is in particular one on the port side, with only four feet of water covering it. Leading right up to the place where she finally stranded are a number of reefs, and it is a marvel how she missed them, lying as they do on both sides of the course she steered. I think myself the *Sobraon* will become a total wreck."

"What other vessels besides the *Coromandel* were there when you left Tung Yung?"—"The first to come up was the gunboat *Daphne*; then followed the *Humber*. They arrived on the 29th April, and anchored inside of the *Irene*. When we left we took four of the *Sobraon's* passengers down to Hongkong."

"What do you think is the value of the cargo saved by the *Irene*?"—"About £115,000."

"What does it consist of?"—"Well, 817 bales of silk, which I value at £120 per bale; twelve bags of silver belonging to the *Sobraon*; twelve bags of parcel post; and a great amount of baggage belonging to the passengers."

This concluded the interview.

THE SPECIAL JURY QUESTION.

In the Supreme Court on the 2nd inst., a special jury was summoned to try a civil case, the Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co. against B. Rigold and Bergmann and Melchers and Co. This was an action brought by the Condensed Milk Company to restrain the defendant firms from selling and exporting condensed milk and from using a certain trade mark known as the "Farm Brand" mark. The following gentlemen were called as jury:—Messrs A. G. Morris, R. Cooke, J. W. Bolles, G. L. Tomlin, W. H. Ray, B. Lawton and E. Osborne. Hereupon Mr. Osborne, the Foreman of the Jury, addressing His Lordship the Chief Justice, said:—

"My Lord, with your Lordship's permission and with the concurrence of the other members of the jury, I should like to ask the following questions:—

"Is it necessary in the interests of justice that a special jury should be called for this case?"

"Is it in the interest, and for the benefit, of the community, that we should be called upon at great personal inconvenience, and possible loss, to devote valuable time over a case of this kind?"

"If these questions cannot be answered in the affirmative, we would most respectfully protest at being compelled to serve."

"The case which we have been called upon to try is not one in which the interests of justice are concerned, but some trivial trade dispute which could be equally well settled by your Lordship without the aid of a jury; and under these circumstances we ask your Lordship not to allow a jury in this case, or if that is not possible to direct that each of us be paid \$100 a day to compensate us for loss of time and as a check upon the legalised tyranny which members of the legal profession exercise over the leading commercial men of this Colony in their abuse of the jury system."

The CHIEF JUSTICE said he had pleasure in releasing the jurors from attendance, and he would add a few words with reference to the memorandum handed in by Mr. Osborne and the remarks which he had founded upon it.

With regard to the general question, either party to a suit had, according the existing Code of Civil Procedure, the right to demand a jury for the trial of the cause. By the new code, which came into operation on the 1st July next, this right was to some extent reduced and the practice in respect of juries was assimilated to that now prevailing in England. But parties would still be able not infrequently to have their cases determined by juries. When a question of this kind was raised, a Judge was in a somewhat awkward position, because he would not desire to have it imputed to him that he was jealous of the intervention of juries. On the contrary he personally was often very glad of their assistance. But he confessed he could not help sympathising with busy men like themselves when they were taken away from their own important affairs to decide issues which, as in that case, the Court was probably fairly competent to decide for itself. In two Colonies in which he had been, St. Lucia and British Guiana, there were no juries in civil cases, and their inhabitants were quite satisfied with that state of things. He understood that the same rule also prevailed in the Straits Settlements, where the conditions were not dissimilar to those which existed in this Colony. If the gentlemen on the Special Jury panel felt strongly that they should not be called upon to sacrifice their time and their business interests by attending the Court for the trial of issues in civil cases, he could only suggest that they should bring their opinion on the matter under the consideration of the Governor, who could, if he thought fit, take steps to bring about a change in the law. It would not be becoming for himself in any way to move in the matter. With regard to the particular case now before the Court he might mention that in the first instance the order providing for its mode of trial directed that it should be heard before a Judge without a jury. Afterwards one of the parties came into Chambers and asked that notwithstanding that order, the case should be tried before a Judge with a special jury. Having regard to the note of the law on the subject, he did not like to refuse the application. But he had made it a condition of granting it that each jurymen should receive \$15 per diem for his attendance.

NEW TERRITORY CULTIVATION.

We are led to believe that an application will shortly be made to the local Government for a concession over certain portions of Lantau Island in the New Territory. It is well known that silver exists there, and before the British occupation the venture had taken root, but the general apathy of the Chinese prevented anything like the development of a really practical undertaking. The idea is now to float a company to take over the principal districts where the mineral strata are said to be the richest, to work them as a speculation, founded upon previous reports of those having recently explored the country.

With respect of the development of the arable land at Taipo, as mentioned in a previous issue, we are informed on the most reliable authority that the Shanghai syndicate is almost complete, and proposals will shortly be made to the local Government on the subject.

HONGKONG COAL SUPPLY.

For some time there has been considerable gossip in shipping circles in the Colony as to the supply of coal necessary for the British fleet in Chinese waters, and that already provided for the ordinary consumption of fuel for the world's mercantile marine passing north and south of the China Seas. For the Naval Dockyard, Welsh coal has generally been imported, and Nagasaki coal has been brought in for the use of the ordinary tramp as well as for the usual steamboat mail services. From telegraphic advices which have reached Hongkong, New Zealand has entered the field, and already large shipments of coal have been effected, and are now on their way to China. The British Admiralty have given orders for the construction of two cargo-boats which are to run between Hongkong, Weihaiwei, Wellington, Auckland and other New Zealand

ports with coal, and it is on the *tapis* that others are to follow. Anyhow, it is a certainty that New Zealand is now to supply the British possessions in China with the greater part of its coal, not only for the use of the Government but for the mercantile marine generally.

THEATRE ROYAL.

Perhaps one of the greatest hits ever made (from the purely humorous point of view, that is) by the Brough Comedy Company was scored when they staged *The Brixton Burglary*. The outline of the plot has already been published, but one must see the play to realise and enjoy its wealth of humour, its absurd situations, and its laughable *denouements*—following one upon the other with a rapidity and unexpectedness that keep the audience in a continual state of merriment. A good house favoured the production of the play on Tuesday evening, among those present being H.E. the Governor and Lady Blake, and party.

On Thursday, before another good house, including H.E. the Governor, Lady and Miss Blake and suite, the Brough Company put on the boards *The Amazons*, a farcical romance by A. W. Pinero. The well-known figure of Mr. Brough was absent amongst the performers, but Mrs. Brough, Miss Grace Noble and Miss Temple made splendid "boys," and caused no end of amusement by their slangy phrases. Indeed all the parts were well sustained, and it is impossible for us to particularise. We must not forget to mention, however, the two songs of Miss Grace Noble, which added a decided variety to the performance. Mr. Leslie Victor, as the Frenchman, caused no end of amusement.

CONCERT AT KOWLOON.

The concert given by the St. John's Cathedral Choir last week at Kowloon to the soldiers and sailors met with such a favourable reception that the suggestion was made that a second concert, on a much more extensive scale, should be given to the civilian community, and the proceeds handed over to that most deserving institution, the Missions to Seamen. The suggestion was no sooner made than it was adopted, and Mr. A. Cunningham, hon. secretary of the Cathedral Choir, by whom the first concert was organised, assumed control of the arrangements connected with the second venture. Duties such as these, it may be almost unnecessary to point out, are never light, but the hon. secretary found his task transformed into a pleasure by the ready offers of assistance and co-operation received from numerous quarters. The Hon. C. P. Chater, for instance, lent the hall, the Robinson Piano Company the piano, and Mr. Bowley (of the City Hall) the chairs, whilst the physical comforts of the recipients of all this large-hearted philanthropy were willingly and amply catered for by other friends, who gave donations of cigars, cigarettes, etc. The Rev. J. H. France, St. Peter's Church, had a multiplicity of similarly self-imposed duties to attend to, but with the able assistance of sailor friends and others accounted admirably for his department. As to the concert programme—an attractive collection of vocal and instrumental items—the arranging of the part songs was left in the capable hands of Mr. C. W. Marshall. That he had done so successfully was demonstrated as the night progressed.

The entertainment opened on Wednesday evening, the 1st inst., to a well-filled hall, auguring well for the financial success at least of the concert. A pianoforte duet ("Marche Bohème") by Misses King and Chunyut was the first item on the programme, and proved an excellent opening piece. Both of these young ladies showed great accuracy and delicacy in their touch, and interpreted the difficult piece with an easy grace born of justifiable confidence in their ability to so interpret it. Sergeant-Instructor French followed with the song, "Queen of the Earth," which he sang very pleasingly; he possesses a good tenor voice. He was encored, and repeated the last verse. In addition to being a clever pianoforte performer, Miss Chunyut proved herself to be the possessor of a very sweet soprano voice, and her rendering of "By the River" made the audience

again her debtors. Mr. A. Cunningham's baritone voice was heard to good advantage in Lohr's "Love's Proving"—a song difficult in interpretation, and requiring no inconsiderable vocal ability to give it its true expression. The applause that greeted the conclusion of the song proved that it had been accompanied by the necessary talent. That stirring old Scottish patriotic melody, "Scots Wha Ha'e," is perhaps never heard to better advantage than as a part song, when its full significance and pathos are most clearly brought out. The quartette to whom it was entrusted on the present occasion—Messrs. Armstrong, Hays, Coster, and French—were successful in bringing its true meaning clearly before the audience, and were warmly applauded. The last verse of the song was repeated. The audience were disappointed in not hearing Mr. G. Lammert, who was present but unfortunately unable to sing. Mr. Marshall kindly filled up the gap by rendering Haddon's "To Anthea," and he was deservedly applauded. Mr. W. J. Terrill appealed strongly to his audience in "The Lighthouse Keeper," for which he was encored, when, like the others, he repeated the concluding verse. Perhaps the best vocal item on the programme was that in which Mrs. Lowson was named to sing "The Wind in the Trees." Mrs. Lowson's beautiful soprano voice, clear and sweet, was heard to much advantage, and she sang with her usual studied expression and taste. The applause that marked her vacation of the platform was richly deserved, and resulted in an encore. This brought the first part of the programme to a close.

A pianoforte trio—a decided novelty—by Misses King, Leykum, and Chunyut, marked the opening of the second part, and met with the success that favoured the pianoforte duet at the beginning of the evening. Miss Leykum also sang "The Lost Chord," in which her contralto voice was heard with very pleasing effect, and Mrs. Lowson "The Swallows," time not permitting her to give a much desired encore. The majority of those ladies and gentlemen who appeared in the first half faced the audience again in the second, each with the same gratifying result. "Ye Banks and Braes," a part song by Mrs. Lowson, Misses Chunyut and Leykum, Masters E. and W. Hagen and J. Wilson, and Messrs. Hays, Armstrong, Coster, and French, was one of the principal treats, and was gone through splendidly, the members of the chorus paying studied attention to detail. Masters E. and W. Hagen sang most correctly and pleasingly the duet "What are the Wild Waves Saying?" and were vociferously applauded. Only one item now remains to be mentioned—the trombone quartette by Sergeant Hunt and Bandsmen Thompson, Hughes, and Green. Tradition—a narrow-minded, pessimistic tradition—has given to the trombone a name not enviable amongst musical instruments, but the performance last evening by the quartette above-mentioned, apart altogether from its uniqueness, quite rescued the trombone from the depths to which it has been relegated, proving it, indeed, to be an instrument capable of great possibilities. The accompanists were Misses Weatherston, King and Leykum and Mr. C. W. Marshall.

The "National Anthem" brought to a close one of the most successful concerts of the kind Kowloon has seen for a long period.

An unfortunate accident, terminating fatally, attended the discharge of a Government official's duties early on the 3th inst. Shortly after five o'clock Inspector Mills, of the Sanitary Board, who had received intimation of a case of overcrowding, paid a surprise visit to a registered lodging-house for chair and ricksha-coolies at 2, George's Lane. Immediately on his entry there was a cry of "Pongpan" (inspector), and a rush was made for the roof of the house. The roof is a flat one, with no protecting parapet. Inspector Mills followed the frightened mob to the top of the house, and in the scramble to escape that ensued, a chair-coolie either fell or was jostled over. He fell to the ground, a distance of about sixty feet, and was instantly killed. Inspector Mills reported the matter to the police, who had the body conveyed to the mortuary. An enquiry will probably be held into the circumstances of the case.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 29th April.

THE NEW LOCAL STEAMSHIP LINE.

A certain steamboat company, founded by Chinese and others, intends to run a line of river steamers between Canton, Hongkong, and Macao, and wants to construct a wharf on the river-bank facing Kei Cheong Street. The inhabitants of this and other streets near by strongly oppose the scheme, as they consider it would be an obstruction and great inconvenience to them to have such a wharf near by, which may open a way for the thieves to escape, and an easy ingress into the streets. The inhabitants gathered together to the number of over a thousand men, carrying lanterns on which were painted the characters "Beg favour," and went to the Viceroy's yamen to state their grievance in a petition, and ask His Excellency to refuse permission for the construction of such a wharf. His Excellency replied in a rescript that he would refer the matter to the Magistrate and the Harbour Master of the Customs for investigation and report.

ARMS SMUGGLING.

It is reported that a large quantity of firearms have been smuggled in by Wuchow and West River by various methods to supply the rebels. One of these methods was to put the rifles in a coffin and mark thereon the name of the dead, and his family and the street it was to be taken to. Upon enquiry it was found that no such family existed in that place. It was entirely a bogus affair, and on opening the coffin a great quantity of firearms was discovered.

PLAGUE IN CANTON.

Plague has made its annual appearance again in Canton, especially in the locality known as Tin Sum, in the Western suburb. In one street several families have died within twelve hours. Every year between spring and summer the disease reappears, owing, some say, to the bad state of the weather, the moisture, and the recent rain penetrating and saturating thoroughly the soil, which brings forth in a sort of vapour the germ of the plague. The underclothing, socks, shoes, and other things of those who have died of plague are generally burnt in front of the house, thus rendering the spread of the disease much easier and quicker, while the ashes of the burnt articles are thrown into the river to be carried to distant places.

ATTEMPTED BLACKMAIL BY PIRATES.

Some pirates in the village of Luk Lao, Shun Tak district, sent letters in the name of Lew Man, the pirate chief, and others, to Wong Sang the Magistrate there, demanding the payment of 5,000 taels blackmail; to Colonel Ying Son of 3,000 taels; and to Li Ka Cheuk, General in command of the army, 5,000 taels. The General was formerly a captain in charge of some soldiers to protect Shameen, but was subsequently promoted to be a general. As soon as he received the letter he became highly enraged, and offered a reward of fine hundred dollars for the apprehension of the pirate chief Lew Man. The letters threaten to seize the officials and burn their yamen if the money is not forthcoming.

BURIAL OF ONE OF TUAN'S VICTIMS.

The remains of the late Chang Yen-hwan have been sent back to Fatsan for interment. He was a native of Fatsan and of very humble origin. He had passed successfully all the necessary literary examinations and was appointed a Vice-President of the Board of War. He had been abroad, too, as Chinese Minister. Before the Peking crisis he was banished beyond the frontier of Tartary for some imaginary offence, and during the crisis Prince Tuan sent a false Imperial decree and had him decapitated. He was well known to be a reformer.

ROBBERY AT A YAMEN.

The gaol at the Magistrate's yamen in the Hok Shan district was on the 16th ult. broken into by over 2,000 thieves, and more than ten convicts were rescued from the gaol. They then went into the yamen, broke open the Treasury, and stole therefrom a large quantity of money and clothing. The Magistrate Cheong came to Canton to see the Viceroy on this subject, and His Excellency sent a gunboat with soldiers to try to catch the thieves.

STILL NO E PIRACIES.

Usually the silk handkerchiefs for export to foreign countries are sent to the villages of Lum Tao and Pak-kao to be embroidered with flowers and patterns, but of late, on account of so many robberies and piracies, the junks that plied between these places and Canton have refused to take these articles and ceased their plying on the 20th ult. It is a great inconvenience to the embroidery-shops in Canton and an obstruction to their business, for they cannot get women to work at their articles for the supply of foreign markets.

SWATOW.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

SWATOW, 1st May.

STEAM-LAUNCH INCIDENT NOT SETTLED.

It is but a few days ago that the launch *Hong An* was set free and restored to its owners. The Chinese representatives of the launch have put in a claim for \$150, but, as is usual in such cases, quite a long time will elapse before payment is made. I doubt as a matter of fact if this claim will ever be satisfied.

TAHTAPOO PEOPLE INTEND A BOYCOTT.

On the 3rd instant is a Chinese religious festival, and on this occasion imposing processions are held at Tahtapoo. Large crowds proceed to the place to view the processions, and with a view of opposing the *Hong An*, the Tahtapoo inhabitants have chartered a launch from the Pao Fu Co. to convey intending visitors at reduced rates to the scene of the procession.

MANILA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 26th April, 1901.

PUBLIC DISAPPROVES POLICE PRACTICES.

During the last two or three months Manila has witnessed a series of hasty and even violent arrests under the orders of the military, which have done much to hurt not only the authorities but also Americans in general, in the eyes of the public and especially in the opinion of foreigners and natives. One of the worst features of the cases is that, while at first a deep mystery has been made by the police officers, accompanied by a great fuss and sensation and praise of the alert officers on the part of the papers, as time wears on the whole thing is generally forgotten; the "horrible criminals" and "cowardly traitors" and "systematic swindlers" are apparently forgiven or released on bond or allowed their liberty, and that is the end of it, so far as the public is concerned. This policy does not result beneficially for the military government; on the contrary it works much harm, as it weakens the faith of the public and opens the way for numerous false impressions and rumours to come from the fertile brains of the hundreds of past masters of intrigue and sensation, who thrive in the heterogeneous population of Manila. It is common talk that the authorities are afraid to prosecute these persons arrested because a thorough trial would bring out the rottenness and corruption of the present administration. People say that the conviction of some of the persons who have been arrested and later released would involve many high officials. I doubt if any sane-minded, responsible person believes these things, but nevertheless there are many who accept them greedily and derive much comfort in them, and at the same time they furnish the sensation-searchers with excellent material.

The police officers who have carried on this policy have been too hasty or over-zealous and no doubt inexperienced. A good many changes have been made in the police department, perhaps because the positions were filled by Volunteer officers whose regiments were returning to the United States, and perhaps also because they went ahead too fast without sufficient grounds, or in other words they "bit off more than they could chew" or conveniently handle. At any rate they no longer occupy desks in the police office. Captain Gains, who came into prominence over Mr. Carman's arrest and Lieutenant Gillespie have been relieved, and the present Chief of Police is expected to

vacate his office in the near future probably to accommodate his civilian successor under the Civil Government. By the way Mr. Carman, whose case was so widely discussed and universally condemned for a time, is still at liberty on bond, and it is generally believed that the matter, which was hailed as a howling sensation, will be quietly forgotten.

THE PROGRESS OF THE COMMISSARY SCANDAL.

The Commissary trials are proceeding slowly as the cases have been stubbornly fought by the accused men and numerous witnesses have been examined. As I mentioned in my last letter, the common reports of the actual sum of money involved are very much exaggerated. The Commissary Department does a business of \$600,000 per month and the usual stock on hand is valued at \$2,000,000. Owing to the tremendous activity of the troops in widely scattered portions of the islands, the vast transportation department and the pilfering nature of the native labourers, there are splendid opportunities for leakage, and the Commissary officials have known for a long time that a big leakage was going on, but they could not catch the criminals. The case of the first non-commissioned officers, Commissary Sergeant Meston, has been concluded. The court found him guilty and sentenced him to dishonourable discharge, the forfeiture of his papers and two years' imprisonment. The trial of Lieutenant Boyer begins this morning and that of Captain Read on Monday.

WITNESSES FLEE FROM MANILA.

Some of the principal witnesses have disappeared from Manila. One has made his escape to Australia and another one is heading for Japan. A good many arrests have been made in connection with these cases and some of them have been unnecessarily hasty, even approaching violence. One gentleman, who is, I believe, desired only as a witness, was taken away from his home in the evening by a soldier who ordered him to report immediately to the police headquarters, where he was released under 2,500 bonds; another was taken out of his office and marched off like an ordinary thug. Another man was arrested at a place of public amusement and very foolishly kicked up a row and resisted arrest, but he was landed in gaol and very promptly taught to respect the officers of the law. This last was Mr. Macondray, and after a trial by the Inferior Court he has been sentenced to thirty days in Bilibid Prison for resisting arrest and using violent language. Mr. Macondray has been in business in Manila for about two years and he is not ignorant of military law. His case should serve as a good lesson. The natives will soon begin to think that the American population is made up of a lot of scoundrels and common criminals. An occasional prompt investigation and punishment does more good as an object lesson to a turbulent public than a score of arrests.

AGUINALDO REMAINS IN SECLUSION.

The ex-president of the Republica Filipinos is living quietly in an assigned residence near the Malacañan Palace, overlooking the Pasig River. His wife and children are with him and he spends much time in reading the local newspapers and studying English. He is fond of the American illustrated magazines and papers. There is a guard over the gate and two or three officers live in the house with him, but they are there more to prevent Don Emilio from disturbance than to limit his action. He is quite at liberty, with but a few restrictions. The friends of General Luna, who was killed by Aguinaldo's order, are still loyal, and it is whispered about that when an opportunity offers they will work out their vengeance. On this subject as on many others, Aguinaldo declines to speak. He declares that he is wholly at the disposition of the authorities and that he has as yet formed no plans for the future. He knows little of current politics but he indorses the policy of the Federal Party and approves of the Philippine Commission. Colonel Mallory, who was recently in Hongkong, is the senior officer in the Aguinaldo residence.

Attorney Gibbs, who is acting for the defence in the case of six Filipinos of the town of Taytay who are accused of murder, has called on the court to admit the testimony of Aguinaldo which he hopes will throw light on the customs and laws of warfare under the insurgent government. His application to be per-

mitted to have Aguinaldo on the witness stand has been forwarded to General McArthur. Mr. Gibbs also asks that General Pio del Pilar be brought back from Guam to add his testimony, as the alleged murders were committed in a district under his command and organisation.

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the *P. & T. Times* of the 20th ult.:

The Tartar General Taengchi is stated to have arranged to divide the salt revenue for Manchuria with the Russian Government.

A military official has memorialised the Court that the Chinese field force is still capable of resisting the Allies. The Empress Dowager tore the memorial up in a rage.

The *Je Je* reports some Indian soldiers have been marauding in the village of Chang Chia-chuang, and when the gentry with the native police tried to stop them, they fought and wounded some.

According to the same paper, the Chinese are complaining that Indian soldiers at the railway stations prevent them from going on the trains, and many Chinese have to bribe them heavily before they can get a passage. We suspect that the men so stopped are trying to get their rides for nothing.

Viceroy Liu has enlisted all the fishing junks at the mouth of the river Yangtze as naval reserve boats. His ostensible reason is to prevent them becoming pirates, but as the fishermen are expert seamen and divers, the *Chih Pao* opines he has them in view for defensive purposes.

The Chinese have again broken out, apparently near Paotingfu, and again destroyed the railway at Kan-pah-tien. They will not help the negotiations much in this way. There has been some fighting, and French and German troops have left for Paoting. Gen. Ma is reported to be threatening renewed hostilities.

An explosion occurred at the Cheng-ke arsenal, Peking, now occupied by the Germans, the day before yesterday at ten o'clock in the morning. Several soldiers and one officer are reported to have been killed, and many wounded. Three rifles were carried by the explosion as far as Li Hung-chang's residence: the old Viceroy was much startled.

The condition of affairs at the Tong-shan pits is steadily improving and the water is slowly but surely diminishing in the workings. The pit at Linsi is being worked at full pressure and the output is close on four hundred tons a day. This coal is not being stacked but is finding its way to Tongku, although break of carriage and portage are necessary at Han-ku bridge.

We understand that a telegram has been received from Bishop Scott to the effect that the Anglican Mission in North China will make no claims whatever, private or corporate, against the Chinese Government for the dreadful loss of life and property brought about by the recent troubles. Whatever we may think of this policy as a bit of worldly wisdom those of us who know our good diocesan will feel no surprise that he has taken such high ground and refuses to barter the blood of his martyrs for sycee. We hear the Bishop will not return till the autumn.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS IN JAPAN.

The *Nagasaki Press* has the following:—

The Ministerial crisis is fast becoming acute. The Finance Minister's reported resignation is regarded as a sign for the general break-up of the Ito Cabinet. Wholesale resignation is recommended rather for form's sake, and then the reconstruction of the Cabinet with Marquis Ito as Premier. Party politics is largely responsible for the move, and danger to the Cabinet is essentially due to the disagreement within. Mr. Hoshi is again heard in connection with the present troubles. He is personally opposed to Viscount Watanabe, Finance Minister, and their views on economic questions are diametrically opposed to each other. The retrenchment scheme is strongly objected to by the commercial world and a vast majority of politicians. The Finance Minister's views on the situation are summed up in the following three

items:—Difficulty in raising loans; deficit in the revenue; and (3) indiscriminate demands by each State department for larger expenditure.

The retrenchment scheme is not of a permanent nature. It is only carried to the 37th year of Meiji, that is to say, three years hence. By that time the deficit accruing in the sinking funds, the extraordinary expenditures on account of the naval and military programmes, expansion, and other sources of exceptional outlays will be stopped. Besides, the revenue will be kept up to the estimated standard by that time, which fact in itself strongly favours the scheme. In a memorial submitted by the Finance Minister, it is said that the raising of foreign loans is condemned for various reasons. He welcomes foreign capital should it make a permanent home in Japan, but in other forms he is against it.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE CARRIAGE OF PLAGUE-BASKETS OVER THE FERRY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 2nd May.

SIR,—I can corroborate the statement of your correspondent as to the carrying of baskets of plague-clothing on board the ferry-boats. I was waiting at the Ferry Pier on the Hongkong side when these baskets were brought ashore yesterday afternoon.

The usual jostling crowd of coolies and other Chinese occupied the whole of the pier space, while a few Europeans, including some ladies and children, struggled off the boat as best they could.

In the midst of the usual scrimmage up came the four coolies carrying the black plague-baskets, under the nose of the policeman on duty, and calmly pushed their way on to the Praya, rubbing against coal-coolies and Europeans alike, and nearly knocking one child into the water.

Is there no person in authority who can be hanged for things like this? Or does no one care? Are we to wait for a plague outbreak among Europeans before we stop this criminal carelessness and lack of supervision?

While speaking of this, I might mention the utter lack of control on the part of the police on the pier. No attempt whatever is made to protect women and children from the crowds of coolies in getting on and off the boats.—Yours, etc.,

CIVILISATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 3rd May.

SIR,—With reference to your paragraph of 2nd instant regarding the clothes of plague-infected people being carried by the "Star" ferry launches, will you please allow me a small space in your valuable paper to confirm the statement of your correspondent? The clothes which your correspondent saw going over to Kowloon might already have been disinfected, but what I saw was clothes coming from Kowloon. These surely could hardly have been disinfected. With plague cases increasing day by day in our midst this is certainly, as your correspondent said, "an excellent means of spreading the disease." The Sanitary Board are working hard to prevent an epidemic, as witnessed by the fact that Sanitary Inspector Mills on hearing of a case of overcrowding in one of the coolie-houses made a raid on the house and chased the alarmed occupants to the roof of the house with the result that one of the coolies fell from the roof and was killed. While these *pongpan*s are carrying on things to such an extreme to prevent the plague from spreading, the Sanitary authorities are allowing plague-infected clothes, &c., to be carried not only in crowded ferry-launches but through crowded streets during the day time. I am surprised that the "Star" Ferry Company, the secretary of which is also a member of the present decrepit Sanitary Board, are tolerating this nuisance.

I trust that something will be done, and at once too, to stop this nuisance; the Sanitary

authorities will certainly do it, if they really have the interest of the community at heart.—Yours &c,

SANITAS.

MISSIONARIES IN CHINA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 29th April.

SIR,—Will you allow me a little space in your widely read paper to reply to your correspondent C.V.L.? The fact which I alluded to in my letter of the 22nd instant, is fully described by G. Eug. Simon in his work *La Cité Chinoise*. The author, who was representative of France in China, mentioned even the name of the missionary who attempted to rob the Royal graves in Corea, with such disastrous consequences. I have heard that this missionary was a bishop or vicar-general. Mr. Simon also explained the cause which led to massacre of Tientsin in 1870. It was not, as generally reported, because Chinese thought that sisters of charity bought children to extract their eyes for medical purpose. I do not see why C.V.L. should sneer at those who, having devoted for many years some spare hours to the study of Sociology, venture to suggest means of securing a durable peace and prosperity in the Far East. The system adopted by modern missionaries, has proved a complete failure, and brought on wars and great calamities. It is most unchristian, inhuman and useless to resort again to brutal force. Mr. Michie in his very instructive lecture, lately delivered at the City Hall, has pointed out the evils. Why should not the Great Powers try to remedy them? Will C.V.L. explain why it is that as a rule, only the missionaries of the Great Powers that get in troubles with the Chinese? I have read in an American magazine that Bishop Piazzoli, who knows Chinese well, told a reporter of a paper in Milan, that in his opinion the missionaries should not be under any protection whatever. This is the humble and admirable tenet of primitive Christianity.—Yours, etc.,

OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

28th April.

SIR,—If I may revert for a moment to my letter in your issue of Monday last, 21st April, I must acknowledge the justice of your correction. I should have expressed myself more correctly had I said that I took exception to what appeared to me the assumption, or intimation, which seemed to accompany your remarks, that certain missionary bodies, more or less particularised, did actually hold the principle, and knowingly lend themselves to the policy, which you justly characterised with forcible terms.

And now, will you kindly let me refer again to a point in Mr. Michie's lecture. It may not be a matter of great importance in itself, whether or not the Jesuits plotted against a Chinese Emperor in the 18th century, but it is of some importance in Mr. Michie's argument, as it was referred to as showing that missionaries are inclined to forget their proper sphere and functions, and give themselves up to political intrigue. There were only three Emperors of the 18th century against whom the Jesuits could possibly have plotted: Kang-hsi, who reigned until 1723; Yung-ching, 1723-1736; Khien-lung, whose reign lasted to within four years of the end of the century, when the Jesuits, for a very good reason, were no longer able to plot. Under each of these three Emperors, the Jesuits were at court as astronomers and in other capacities, and enjoyed uninterrupted marks of imperial favour and protection. It would be, then, to say the least, interesting, were there any evidence that they had ever plotted against the Emperor, without losing the privilege of remaining in the capital, when all other missionaries were banished. I am far from controverting Mr. Michie's position concerning the harm arising from the mixing of religious and political questions; I only judge it unfortunate that some of his references may not be entirely exact. This one, for instance, and perhaps another, to which I may refer on another occasion.

While looking over some notes on the missions of the 18th century, I came upon rather an interesting account of one who, I think, must be considered the first English missionary

to China. Strangely enough he was a Jesuit, and he went under the name of Pereyra. His real name, however, was Andrew Jackson; he was born in Oporto, of English parents. He came to China in 1716, at the age of twenty-six, and after finishing his studies and taking orders at Macao, he worked for upwards of twelve years in the southern provinces. In 1725 he was called to Peking on account of his proficiency in mathematics, and was placed on the board of astronomy, where he remained until his death in 1743. He is described in the letters of his companions as a person of great prudence and of most winning manners. These excellent qualities of character, together with his scientific accomplishments and his mastery of the Chinese language, made him an acceptable person to the Emperor Yung-ching, hostile as that Emperor was towards the Christian religion.—Yours, etc.,

SAM-PA-TSAI.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 1st May.

SIR,—My only reason for replying to your "Occasional Correspondent" was that I have found that with many people in China any story is willingly received that seems to tell against missionaries; the Corea coffin tale is a case in point. The originators of the expedition, Messrs Oppert and Jenkins, were not to be in any way suspected of encouraging missionary enterprise; in the end they came under the shadow of the law, and a very discreet silence was maintained as to particulars of the expedition. I do not know what M. Simon's sources of information were, but even supposing that they had a priest for guide, or, at the very worst, granting that they were encouraged or aided by the Catholic missionaries—is a common marauding expedition, as it was, to be taken as a sample of what missionaries are doing in China, and real missionary work be condemned for such a cause? The thing is absurd!

I am only amused where with what he calls "venturing to suggest means, &c." he comes forward with his dictum as to the "only way" to settle one of the most obscure and tangled questions of modern times—it is so simple. His arraignment of their iniquities and "blameful proceedings," and "the system adopted by modern missionaries" has great comprehensiveness, and the gist of it all seems to be that he would suppress them altogether, not seeing that he is making himself somewhat ridiculous in ignoring a force which has made changes in the face of the world from Moses to Joseph Smith. I am afraid to tackle his conundrums about the Great Powers, and will not try.

It seems to me that, in spite of some failure, a certain amount of charity ought to be extended to a body of people who have as their one declared object the elevation and improvement of the people of China morally and materially; and, the assertion of many well-informed persons to the contrary notwithstanding, there is a great need of it.—Thanking you for your space, I am, sir, yours, &c.,

C.V.L.

THE WANCHAI WAREHOUSE AND STORAGE CO., LD.

An extraordinary general meeting of the above company was held at the office of the General Managers on Thursday, the 2nd inst., afternoon, for the purpose of electing a consulting committee. Mr. J. G. Schröter (chairman) presided, and there were also present Messrs. H. Brodersen (secretary), E. Osborne, J. Orange, O. von der Heyde, H. Oldenberg, F. M. Graça, A. S. Hooper, C. Rogge, A. E. Asger, and Kwok Lun.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the object for which this meeting was convened has just been read to you, and I would like to explain how it comes that taking this step now becomes necessary. It is a number of years since the consulting committee was given up with your approval after the completion of the lease with the Hongkong, Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., but to recall the position to your mind I may be permitted to quote the respective passage in the speech of the chairman at that meeting, on the 8th January, 1897, which runs as follows:

—"As you will have seen, Messrs. Sachse and Stölterfoht, after giving us the full benefit of their valuable experience during the negotiation about the lease, have resigned their position, there being no more occasion for a consulting committee. In this I agree with them, and I now propose that we do not again elect a consulting committee." This proposal was seconded and carried. We had all expected that there would be no change of circumstances till the end of the lease, which expires in 1906, but the new scheme of Mr. Chater of reclaiming Praya East, with which you will be acquainted through the papers, and which includes the front of our property, entirely alters the situation. It is unavoidable that questions of great importance to the Company should soon present themselves and it is provided in the Articles of Association that the General Managers should have the advice of and act in conjunction with a consulting committee. Such a committee has according to the rules to be elected in general meeting, and, can now name two gentlemen, Mr. Orange and Mr. Osborne, who would be willing to accept. Before putting the motion, I would like to ask you whether you wish to make any remarks on the subject.

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN put the vote to the meeting.

Mr. VON DER HEYDE seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business before the meeting, gentlemen. I thank you for your attendance.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 3rd May.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ANGLO-SWISS CONDENSED MILK CO. V.

B. RIGOLD AND CO. AND MELCHERS AND CO.

This was a case in which the Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company (plaintiffs) sought to restrain B. Rigold and Company and Melchers and Company (defendants) from selling and importing milk.

Mr. Francis, K.C. (instructed by Mr. Gedge) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Sharp (instructed by Mr. Hastings) for the defendants.

The case opened on Thursday, when Mr. Francis asked for a declaration of the Court that the defendants' trade mark is an infringement on plaintiffs' trade mark, and petitioned for an injunction.

Witnesses were called and the plaintiffs' case closed.

For the defence, Mr. Sharp called Aldrecht Wilhelm Schellas, assistant in the firm of Melchers and Company. Witness said his firm were agents for Rigold and Bergmann, and had been from 1895. Since then the business *in toto* had not been very considerable.

The case was left proceeding.

THE VITRIOL OUTRAGE.

The hearing of evidence in the case against George Allen was resumed at the Magistracy on the 30th ult.

Inspector Cuthbert deposed to the arrest of Allen. He said: On the 17th inst. I arrested the defendant, by virtue of a warrant, on a charge of procuring one Yueng Kun to throw vitriol upon one George Reek.

Inspector Gauld said he was on duty in the charge room at the Central Police Station on the 17th inst. when the defendant was brought in and charged. Witness submitted the defendant's statement, which he took down word for word, and which was signed by Allen. This statement simply was—"I have nothing to say."

This concluded the case for the prosecution.

His Worship—Have you anything to say, Mr. Hastings?

Mr. Hastings—As your Worship will no doubt commit this case for trial, I propose to reserve my defence.

His Worship—I am required to demand a reply from you as to whether you desire to call any witnesses.

Mr. Hastings—We reserve our right to call witnesses.

His Worship—Do you wish to call any here?

Mr. Hastings—No, your Worship.

The defendant was then formally committed for trial.

Mr. Hastings—I will ask your Worship to admit the accused to bail on remand, as it is a long time to the Sessions. I submit to your Worship that the only question for you to consider in granting bail is the question whether the defendant will appear to take his trial, and by fixing a sufficient amount your Worship can make that quite certain. This is not a case where bail ought to be refused entirely. You see, it is about three weeks to the Sessions, and it will be very hard for the defendant to prepare his defence unless he is able to see his solicitor and counsel.

His Worship—As far as that is concerned, his solicitor can go to the gaol and see him. No, I don't propose to admit the defendant to bail.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO SINGAPORE.

We abridge from the *Straits Times* the following account of the visit of T. R. H. the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York to Singapore:—

The arrival of the Royal steamer *Ophir* at Tanjong Pagar in the early hours of Sunday morning was not attended with any celebration whatever, it having been decided that the berthing of the vessel should be carried out privately, and the reception, &c., be left until the Royal party arrived at Johnston's Pier.

The gun announcing that the *Ophir* had been sighted was fired from Fort Canning at 6.20 a.m., and at ten minutes to seven she steamed to the wharf, her escorts, the *St. George* and *Juno*, also being berthed close to.

It was not generally expected that the *Ophir* would arrive at Tanjong Pagar before 8 or 9 o'clock, and when she did arrive there were only four or five persons on the wharf. There was nothing whatever of a startling or exciting nature in the mooring of the *Ophir*, and the work was done quietly and easily, the vessel being made fast by ten minutes past seven. The crew of the *Ophir* was drawn up on deck, and most of the officers were visible, but at this period there was no sign of the Royal party. There were no police or military on duty, but the Dock Company's private force, under Supt. McMurray, were marshalled on the wharf, and the position occupied by the *Ophir* was roped off from the other portions of the wharf, and no one but those provided with a special pass was allowed within the enclosure.

His Honour, the Acting Governor, Sir Frank Swettenham, drove down about 8.30, attended by Capt. Barry, A.D.C., but after staying a few minutes drove back to town.

Preparations were speedily made for conveying the Royal Party to Johnston's Pier. A steam pinnace from the *St. George* was brought alongside the *Ophir*. The Master Attendant's launch *Albuquerque*, in charge of Capt. Murphy and Police Inspector Branagan, had instructions to keep in attendance. Some delay took place on the pinnace owing to lack of steam, and the Master Attendant's launch was brought up alongside the *Ophir*. The Royal ensign was run up at the stern, and preparations were being made to bring off the Royal guests when a signal was made from the pinnace that everything was all right, and she accordingly again came up. Everything was ready by 10.30. Their Royal Highnesses stepped down the gangway into the pinnace and the band played "God save the King." Their Royal Highnesses were accompanied by Lady Mary Lygon, Lady in Waiting; Lord Wenlock, G.C.S.I., G.C.L.E., Lord in Waiting, and Head of Household and an A.D.C.; Lieut.-Col. Sir Arthur Bigge, G.C.V.O., K.C.B., C.M.G., Private Secretary. At 10.5 the booming of the guns from H.M. ships in the Harbour told the anxious and expectant multitudes on shore that the Royal Party was sighted and was heading for Johnston's Pier. The Duke and Duchess arrived in their Pinnace at Johnston's Pier, somewhat behind time. The Pier was richly decorated and was crowded with the *élite* of Singapore

society, official and unofficial. The streets and adjoining thoroughfares were closely packed with spectators representative of the various nationalities to be found in the city. The verandahs and all points of vantage around were crowded with onlookers. Guards of honour of Marines, Blue-jackets, and Madras Infantry were lined up. The Governor was in uniform. H.E. welcomed the Royal visitors. "God Save the King" was played as the guard gave the Royal salute; and amidst loud cheering the Duke and Duchess entered the carriage, which, escorted by a guard of Perak troopers, drove on to Cavanagh Bridge, around the sea-face of the Esplanade, up Stamford and Orchard Roads, to Government House gates. Volunteers and troops of the Garrison lined the route, which was gay with bunting and banners, and decorated houses. Crowds thronged the roads intersecting the line of route and were with great difficulty kept back by the police. The weather was awfully hot. It can be imagined how the sweltering heat told on those dressed up for the occasion. The cheering, which everywhere greeted the royal visitors, was hearty in the extreme. The native spectators appeared not to show so much enthusiasm as might have been expected. But it must be borne in mind that they are not accustomed to cheering of their own accord; they require someone to lead in such displays of enthusiasm. With them the absence of frantic cheering means a mark of respect to the Duke and Duchess.

THE DECORATIONS.

It may be doubted whether Singapore was ever more prettily decorated, since Britons ruled here, than she has been on this occasion of Royalty visiting her sea-girt shores. Singapore has been seen well at the time of this Royal visit, and especially is this the case in what may be called the business side of Cavanagh Bridge. Perhaps one of the most striking pieces of decorative work was the show at the office of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, in itself a handsome building. Here, right across the main front of the building, the first thing to catch the eye was the motto: "1832—Singapore again welcomes Prince George—1901." Flags large and small were suspended from every convenient spot, shields bearing devices and surrounded with flags were attached to the pillars, strings of greenery were festooned along the building with every now and then a gay coloured rosette, and the whole building was outlined in colour. Somewhat the same scheme of decoration was employed along the whole of Collyer Quay to the North German Lloyd office. Every godown along the front of which these arches passed adopted decorations in which red, white, and blue cloth and the national flags predominated, with a few smaller variously coloured flags thrown in here and there with extremely good effect. D'Almeida Street, with a row of masts on either side, from which were hung strings of small flags, was a waving mass of colour; and the buildings in the Square were all well decorated. Powell and Co.'s place was tastefully treated, and Little and Co.'s establishment was a sight to be seen. It is not possible to mention every building; but every one did something to add to a very handsome effect. The Club looked well with large national flags hanging from the windows, and red, white, and blue cloth judiciously used. All the premises up to Cavanagh Bridge were treated, in some sort of way, with flags and bunting; and on the bridge itself a good deal of skill had been expended. Either end was made to represent the entrance gate of an old castle, portcullis and all; and over the roadway were many coloured flags galore that fluttered gaily in the breeze sweeping in from the harbour.

At the Government buildings there was no lavish display of decorations. Flags fluttered from the windows, and at the flag-pole the Royal Standard was hoisted. The Esplanade was encircled with flags, but as is generally known the Singapore "green" needs no decoration to enhance its beauty. At the side entrance to the Town Hall, facing the Government Buildings, where Their Royal Highnesses entered, a covered way of red cloth had been put up. The pillars were covered with ferns, palms, &c., being placed there in great profusion, also up the steps, which were covered with

red, making a very pleasing and effective sight. But it was at Government House Gates that the display took place. The representation was a square of four leafy arcades, the pillars of each being in fours. The overhead arches had been excellently arranged, and from the top of each flew the Royal Standard. The whole scene was descriptive of a forest, and the structure was one that will be remembered for a long time. The Chinese Pagoda, at the old gaol site, a splendid edifice with a model representing Britannia at the head, erected by the Straits Chinese British Association; the triumphal arch of the Malay Community; and the stands where the children assembled to greet Their Royal Highnesses, on the old gaol site, were also lovely and lavishly ornamented. The decorations in High Street were distinctly Oriental and formed a splendid scene. A huge canopy had been erected, together with two arches, which bore the mottoes "Welcome to Their Royal Highnesses," and "Long Live the Duke and Duchess." Numerous figures and devices, peculiar to the Chinese race, and forming a very strange picture to European eyes, were also exhibited, and in front of several of the shops were miniature Chinese theatres. In all portions of the native town every effort apparently had been made to make the decorations and illuminations well worth witnessing—and in this the natives succeeded admirably.

THE SUNDAY NIGHT DRIVE.

During their Empire tour Their Royal Highnesses have seen, up to the present, many strange and brilliant sights, but we doubt if they have seen anything so distinctly Oriental in character as the scene presented in several of the principal streets on Sunday night. Shortly after dinner the Duke and Duchess were driven down in a carriage to the junction of the Esplanade with High Street, where a halt was made while an escort of the Malay States Guides formed round the carriage and several members of the suite were more or less comfortably installed in rickshas, the pullers of which, by the way, were clothed in gorgeous red *bajus* and pants, with fantastic Chinese hats. The party moved off down High Street at walking pace—the Governor first in a ricksha, the Duke and Duchess following in their carriage, and after them several of the staff in the aftermentioned rickshas. High Street was a sight to see. It was canopied in coloured cloth and along either side of the road were numerous lanterns, while from the centre of the canopy hung, at intervals, Chinese representations of dragons, fishes, etc., lighted inside, and forming a picturesque sight. In addition every shopkeeper had decorated his establishment according to his individual taste, while here and there were mottoes of welcome, and at the street corners, arches, also gaily decorated and lighted. The same description of the scene as that applied to High Street may be applied also to the other streets passed through. In Market Street the Chinese had made a specially fine effort and the thoroughfare was a blaze of light and colour. The Royal carriage returned by way of High Street again, and after a short halt left for Government House. Needless to say, at the points where stoppages were made there were enthusiastic cheers from the crowd and especially so at the Hotel de l'Europe corner, where the Royal couple got an exceedingly warm greeting. Reference must not be omitted of the pretty sight afforded in the harbour. The men-of-war at anchor were all brilliantly outlined with lamps that twinkled and cast their rays with delightful effect on the small ripples of the water. Many mercantile steamers co-operated in this illumination, and the whole effect in the dark night was charmingly picturesque.

PRESENTATION OF ADDRESSES IN THE TOWN HALL.

At eleven o'clock, or thereabouts, on Monday forenoon, the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York were the recipients of loyal addresses from representatives of the various communities of the Colony. The interior of the Town Hall was resplendent in its new paint and fittings and everything went as smoothly as possible, the ceremony being witnessed by a crowded and representative gathering. A choir was present and sang the National Anthem and a selection, and then the addresses were handed to H.R.H. in their beautiful caskets. His

Royal Highness the Duke of Cornwall and York replied to the British subjects' address as follows:—"I heartily thank the British subjects of the Straits Settlements for the cordial terms of the address of welcome and good wishes which you have presented to me on their behalf. I greatly appreciate the sympathetic allusion to the fulfilment of the wishes of our late beloved Sovereign in the mission which has been entrusted to me by the King Emperor. I congratulate the Colony upon the continuous peace and the steady progress in civilisation and prosperity which it enjoys. I have heard with especial satisfaction the words of the address which gratefully acknowledge the benefits accruing to all irrespective of race and creed who find protection under the British flag. I shall have much pleasure in conveying to His Majesty your assurances of loyalty and devotion to his Throne and Person."

When the ceremony was over, the guard-of-honour again gave the Royal Salute as the Duke and Duchess stepped into the carriage. There were rousing cheers as the party drove off, the Governor following in a gig.

THE CHILDREN'S GREETING.

There was a short little ceremony on Monday afternoon, the welcome and greeting extended by close upon 5,000 school children of all nationalities. The children were all in their places betimes. The first sign of the approach of the Royal carriage was the clatter of horses' hoofs as the advance men of the mounted escort trotted into the enclosure, and directly after the Royal carriage drove in, stopping at the Pagoda, where one of the little daughters of Mr. Seah Liang Seah presented the Duchess with a bouquet of flowers. Then the carriage passed on to the centre of the enclosure, where another stop was made, a choir of ladies and gentlemen singing a verse of the National Anthem. The children cheered their hardest and loudest, each body of children having flags of one particular colour. As the youngsters waved their flags and cheered the sight was most touching and impressive. After the verse of "God Save the King," the Duchess was presented on behalf of the Raffles Girls' School, with a beautiful bouquet of orchids, and a handsome Chinese scroll from the children of the Convent. The Duke received these presents, thanked the children warmly, handed the presents to the Duchess, and the carriage drove on amidst the cheers of thousands of youngsters who vigorously waved their flags.

THE TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION.

No celebrations can be held in Singapore unless there is a torchlight procession. The procession on Monday night was made up of Malays, Tamils, and Chinese. The Malay and Bugis contingents led the procession, walking in fours, and all carrying lanterns. Four representations of men-of-war, excellently executed, were the chief attraction of the Malays, together with a small Malay atap-roofed house. Then came the Tamils with lighted torches and lanterns. Some of the latter bore inscriptions, the most conspicuous being one "God Bless the Duke and Duchess." There was no lack of music in this part of the procession, gongs, drums, etc., being beaten with any amount of vigour. Then came the Chinese. Following a preliminary advance guard carrying lanterns came an excellent model of a battleship, bearing the name *Victoria*. A score of boys and girls, each mounted on a pony and half a dozen open cars, in which sat Chinese girls followed, and then, after another "band" detachment had passed, came a representation of a huge dragon, over a hundred feet long. Flags were also freely displayed, and a good many of the lanterns bore appropriate inscriptions. Imitation flying-fish and more dragons helped to make up a very ostentatious exhibition, whilst, as a finale to the procession, came a couple of brakes in which were Chinamen acting the part of "Moonlight Minstrels."

The procession entered Government grounds about 10 o'clock, and marched through Government House gates and up the steep incline towards the beautifully illuminated domain on the top of the hill. Long before any part of the procession was visible the sound of banging drums and tom-toms could be heard and the advance of the procession was marked by a lurid

glare in the sky from thousands of torches and lights. The procession was certainly the finest ever seen in Singapore and some of the various items were most artistically got up. There were steamers, men-of-war, piratical *prahus* manned by cut-throat crews, boats constructed of tiers of Japanese lanterns, and various other remarkable devices beyond description. The Clubs and associations turned out in full strength and every district in the island was represented, each having its name on their lanterns. Noticeable among the joyous throng were a large body of men from Johore. Every one carried a Union Jack and a lighted lantern, adorned with suitable greetings and signs of loyalty.

THE REGATTA AND THE ROYAL DEPARTURE.

At a quarter past two on Tuesday afternoon the *Ophir* weighed anchor, and started on her journey to Australia. T.R.H. left Johnston's Pier shortly after 12, amidst the booming of guns and the cheers of those both on shore and afloat. A rather unique spectacle had been arranged in connection with the water fête held in honour of the Royal visitors. A Chinese twakow had been moored near each end of the pier, and between these were the competitors for the paddling races, dressed in gaudy colours, and waiting for the word to "go." As soon as the pinnace conveying the Royal party to the *Ophir* had got clear of the pier, Mr. M. Rodesse gave the signal, and away the boats started, giving Their Royal Highnesses an excellent view of the craft.

Tiffin was taken on board the *Ophir*, amongst the invited guests being:—

Sir Frank Swettenham, the Equerry to the King of Siam, Hon. C. W. S. Kynnersley, Captain Bayley (*Aurora*, Senior Naval Officer), Captain Startin (*Arctura*), Captain Hunt (*Algerine*), Captain Smythe (*Lionnet*), Captain Hamilton (*Rosario*), Captain Boldero, R.N., Captain Jansen (*Piet Hein*), the Captains of the French and Italian men-of-war, Lieut.-Col. Oakes, R.A., Lieut.-Col. Fullerton, R.E., Major Murray, S.V.C., Mr. Hugh Clifford, C.M.G., Mr. W. H. Treacher, C.M.G., Mr. T. Scott, Mr. W. Grigor Taylor, Capt. Barry, A.D.C., and Mr. Bosanquet, private secretary to the Governor.

On leaving the *Ophir* to return to shore, the Duke and Duchess shook hands with all the guests, and bade them good-bye.

As soon as the Royal Party had stepped on board, the regatta was commenced. The course was about four miles, from the man-of-war buoy, past H.M.S. *Ophir*, round the *Horsburgh*, and back to the buoy. The wind and tide were against the boats at the start, and large crowds on the *Ophir* and the various men-of-war in the vicinity watched with great interest the clever manner in which the Malays manipulated their *kolehs* and *sampans*.

At two o'clock the guests on board the *Ophir* took their leave and returned to shore, all hands were mustered, the anchor was weighed, and at sixteen minutes past two the *Ophir* had started on her journey southward. The *St. George* and *Juno* escorted her, as and they passed the men of the various men-of-war were lined upon the decks.

The guns boomed forth, the bands played "God Save the King," and by a quarter to three the *Ophir* was out of sight. She took the course through the Rhic, Banka, and Sunda Straits.

The following is the letter of thanks from the Duke of Cornwall and York to the Acting Governor at Singapore:—

H.M.S. *Ophir*, April 23rd, 1901.

Sir,—Before leaving the Colony, the Duke of Cornwall and York desires to express to the people of the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States, and especially to the inhabitants of Singapore, Their Royal Highnesses' heartfelt thanks for the cordiality and goodwill that has been evinced towards them by all classes of the community. His Royal Highness has also received with true satisfaction their assurance of loyalty and devotion to the Throne and Person of the King and of loving affection for the memory of our late beloved and deeply mourned sovereign.

His Royal Highness feels that such an attitude on the part of the population is a testimony to the happiness and contentment during the beneficent rule of the late glorious Reign, and which Rule they will continue to enjoy under His Majesty the King and Emperor.

The Duke and Duchess were particularly gratified by the evident pains and skill with which the Chinese so effectively illuminated their quarter of the town on the 21st, and by the combined efforts of all the different races to produce the gorgeous and characteristic display of last night's most interesting procession.

Their Royal Highnesses are anxious to take this opportunity of saying how charmed they are with the caskets and cases—exquisite in design and workmanship—which enclosed the addresses presented to them yesterday. These beautiful offerings will ever remain as precious and historic souvenirs of this memorable visit.

In conclusion Their Royal Highnesses warmly thank your Excellency for the kind thought with which all your excellent arrangements have been made and carried out during their very pleasant stay at Government House.

The Duke asks that your Excellency may convey to all officials and others who have assisted you, the expression of his gratitude. His Royal Highness feels that much praise is due to Mr. Cuscaden, the Chief of the Police, and those who under him were responsible for the order and regulation of the crowded streets and thoroughfares.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ARTHUR BUDGE.

His Excellency the Governor
of the Straits Settlements.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

On the 28th ult. was sailed the twelfth and last race for the Championship of the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club. Considerable interest was taken in this race, as it was virtually a match between the two Payne boats, the marks at the start being:—*Alannah* 50, *Bonito* 48, *Iris* 34, *Erica* 16, *Maid Marian* 11. Thus the final result of the whole season's racing depended on this one race. It was a pity, therefore, that there was not a steadier and stronger breeze, so that there could have been a close and hard fought struggle without flukes between the two. The course was from the Police Pier round Stonecutter's and the Rock off Cowichow, distance 15 miles. The tide had just turned and was beginning to run strong to the westward, while a light East wind was blowing at the line. A good start was effected, *Bonito* and *Alannah* being first, *Bonito* on *Alannah's* weather. On the reach to Stonecutter's *Erica*, keeping well to leeward, drew out a long lead, but behind the Island the wind went very light and all closed up in a bunch. At the west end of the Island all except *Bonito* began to work up close under the shore to cheat the tide. *Bonito*, however, stood boldly out in hopes of getting the south wind first, and was shortly after followed by *Alannah*. For some time the wind was so light as to barely keep steerage way on the yachts, but after a little the south wind, which had been blowing there all the morning, was seen coming again, and *Bonito*, getting it first and constantly meeting the freshening wind, drew out a long lead from *Alannah*, both lying up for the rock and passing to the west of Cowichow Island. The remainder of the fleet, headed by *Iris*, stood across towards Green Island, keeping in the slack of the tide but not getting nearly so much wind. *Bonito* rounded the rock about four o'clock with *Alannah* about half a mile astern. The latter, however, seemed to get hung up in a light patch and could not get round the rock until after *Iris*, *Maid Marian* and *Erica* had passed her. The *Bonito* drew out a long lead while the rest were rounding the rock, as the wind dropped considerably after she rounded, and she got home nearly half an hour before the time limit, thus winning the championship for the year running. *Maid Marian*, sailing beautifully, fairly beat the *Iris* on a wind coming home, and got into second place for the third time.

The following are the times of finishing and marks.

	H. M. S.	Marks	Total	
<i>Bonito</i>	5 32 31	10	58	Championship.
<i>Maid Marian</i> ..	6 9 22	4	15	
<i>Iris</i>	6 11 47	1	34	
<i>Erica</i>	6 15 47	0	16	
<i>Alannah</i>	did not	0	50	2nd Prize.
<i>Chanticleer</i> ..	finish	0	5	
<i>Doreen</i>	did not	0	1	
<i>Gloria</i>	did not start	0	1	
<i>Active</i>	only started twice	0	0	

In the second class no boat finished within the times. The race will therefore have to be resailed.

LAWN TENNIS.

H.K.C.C. TOURNAMENT.

The following lawn tennis results were arrived at on the 27th ult.:—Professional Pairs—F. Maitland and H. W. Slade beat H. Pinckney and F. P. Harrold (6-2, 6-2); Double Handicap—J. Hooper and E. H. Hind, 15, beat A. G. Gerard and J. E. Lee, 15 (2-8, 6-2, 6-4); A Class Handicap—E. F. Mackay, 4/6, beat H. Pinckney, 15.8 (6-4, 5-7, 7-5); B Class—C. M. G. Burnie, scratch, beat Capt. Tulloch (6-3, 6-3). D'A. Castro, 15-3, beat F. D. Bain (6-3, 6-4); Championship—P. A. Cox beat A. Humphreys (2-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2).

One tie was decided on the 29th ult. in the Single Handicap, B Class, when C. M. G. Burnie, scratch, beat A. B. Rouse, 3/6, (6-1, 6-4).

The various results on the 30th inst. were:—Double Handicap—H. Pinckney and H. W. Slade, 30.3, beat A. and H. Humphreys, 15.1 (6-4, 6-2); Grist and T. S. Smith, 15.1, beat C. M. G. Burnie and A. B. Rouse, 3/6 (6-1, 6-4); Championship—F. H. Yeats beat D. G. Cowie (6-3, 6-1, 8-6).

On the 1st inst. lawn tennis results were as follows:—A class Handicap—A. Humphreys, 2/6, beat E. F. Mackay, 4/6, (6-2, 7-5); Double Handicap—T. S. Smith and E. J. Grist, 15.1, beat J. Hooper and E. H. Hind, 15 (6-3, 6-4); Championship—P. A. Cox beat F. H. Yeats (6-6, 6-2, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3).

On the 2nd inst. lawn tennis results were:—Professional Pairs—G. F. Mackay and P. A. Cox beat T. S. Smith and E. J. Grist (6-4, 10-8); Double Handicap—E. G. Barrett and F. H. Yeats, 2/6, beat H. Pinckney and H. W. Slade (6-3, 6-1).

Yesterday's lawn tennis result was:—A. class Handicap—P. A. Cox, 1/6, beat Rev. F. Johnson, 15 (7-5, 7-5).

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

LONG RANGE CUP AND SPOONS.

Undernoted are the best scores made in this competition on Saturday. The handicap men are well in evidence—why do they not enter for the cup? They always have a better chance than the scratch men. Let us see a proper sporting spirit—"Never venture, never win." This is Mr. Cramer's second win in this cup:—

	700	800	Handi.	To-
	yards.	yards.	cap.	tal.
* Mr. F. Penning	42	44	10	96
* Mr. J. J. Andrews	43	41	10	94
* Mr. J. Devney	39	40	15	94
Mr. J. H. Varcoe	41	32	20	93
+ Mr. J. Cramer	48	43	—	91
Mr. C. Cameron	38	37	15	90
Sergt. Inst. Wake	46	43	—	89
Mr. J. Pidgeon	44	44	—	88
Q. M. S. Wallace, R.E.	42	44	—	86
Mr. A. Mackenzie	45	40	—	85
Mr. D. McLennan	46	39	—	85

* Winners of spoons. + Winner of cup.

REMOVAL OF CAPE D'AGUILAR LIGHT.

The following is the most important part of the correspondence published in the *Gazette* with reference to the proposed removal of Cape D'Aguiar Light to Green Island:—

H.E. THE GOVERNOR TO MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Hongkong, 25th August, 1900.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward copy of an extract from the Harbour Master's report for the year 1892, in which he originally suggested the improvement in lighting the approaches to this harbour by the interchange of the lights referred to. The estimated cost of removing Cape d'Aguiar Light to Green Island and the latter light to Cape Collinson having been ascertained to be \$5,600 and \$7,000 respectively, owing to the necessity of reconstructing the towers at both places to make them suitable for the lights which were designed for different elevations; as is shown in the attached paper of descriptive particulars, I took the opinion of

the Chamber of Commerce as to whether the expenditure involved would be justified by the advantage gained.

2. In their reply of the 10th instant, a copy of which I append, they stated that after having obtained the opinion of experts they believed the advantages would greatly outweigh the cost, and further suggested the substitution of revolving or flash lights for fixed ones (which the lights it is intended to use are) provided the cost involved were not excessive.

3. I attach a copy of a report on this suggestion by the Acting Harbour Master, who is in favour of the proposal, but before taking further steps in the matter I think it would be well to consult Captain Rumsey, who is now in England. If he is in favour of the substitution of the lights suggested by Mr. Basil Taylor I have to ask that you will obtain the opinion of Messrs. Chance Brothers of Birmingham the makers of the lights, as to the feasibility and cost of converting the lights.

4. In the meantime I shall submit with the Estimates a sum to cover the cost of the construction of a new tower, 200 feet above sea level, on Green Island, to take the D'Aguiar Light.

5. I do not propose to recommend that the work of shifting the Green Island Light to Cape Collinson should be proceeded with next year; and the placing of the Collinson Light at Kowloon Point is probably not now necessary.

If it is not found to be necessary the light could be sold, and it might be well to ascertain from Messrs. Chance whether it would be worth sending the apparatus to England for sale or whether they would allow the Government anything for it.—I have, &c.

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN TO H.E. THE GOVERNOR.

Downing Street,

1st February, 1901.

Sir,—With reference to your despatch No. 390 of the 25th August last, relating to the proposed improvement in lighting the approaches to harbour of Hongkong I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of correspondence on the subject, as noted in the margin.

2. Messrs. Chance Brothers anticipate no difficulty in converting the Cape D'Aguiar and Green Island Lights from fixed to occulting lights. They have pointed out that the apparatus which they supplied for Green Island in 1874 was supplied with a set of condensing prisms, which they presume will not be used when it is transferred to Cape Collinson.

3. Messrs. Chance Brothers have in preparation a drawing, which will be transmitted direct to you by the Crown Agents for the Colonies when it is received, with the purpose of ensuring that the dimensions are furnished correctly.

4. The firm are unable to make any offer for the gun-metal portion of the Cape Collinson light, except at scrap price; and they presume as good a price could be obtained in Hongkong as in England. The apparatus has been in use for 25 years, and the optical portion is therefore probably slightly discoloured, and for this reason unsaleable.

5. It does not appear that any vote for the construction of a new tower on Green Island has been placed on the 1901 Estimates; and it will, therefore, be necessary to take a vote in Council, if it is decided to accept Messrs. Chance Brothers' offer and proceed with the transfer and conversion of the lights.—I have, etc.

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

CAPTAIN MURRAY RUMSEY'S OPINION.

Thorpehill, Kidbrooke Grove,

Blackheath, 18th October, 1900.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter with enclosures dated 9th instant on the subject of the Hongkong Lights, desiring my views upon a suggestion by the Acting Harbour Master thereon.

I am of opinion that if the Lights in question can be fitted with a flashing or occulting arrangement at no very great cost it would be an advantage, and I consider that the intervals proposed by Mr. Taylor are suitable.

I would like to suggest that an opinion be obtained from Trinity House as to any practical disadvantage which might result from placing

the Lights in question at a somewhat higher or lower elevation than they were designed for.

Green Island Light is now 95 feet above high water; it will hardly be practicable to keep it at that height when it is moved to Collinson, where the point on which the buildings stand is higher than 100 feet.

Again, D'Aguiar Light, though designed for 200 feet, might perhaps be for all practical purposes as efficient if placed on Green Island at a lesser height and thereby a saving of expense in the construction of the tower. In neither case is it necessary that after the change these Lights should show to their designed limit of 23 and 14 miles respectively.—I have, &c.

(Signed) R. MURRAY RUMSEY.

Harbour Master, &c., Hongkong.

P.S.—The enclosures to your letter under reply are returned herewith as directed.
R. M. R.

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies.
TRINITY HOUSE TO THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

Trinity House.

London, E.C. 10th November, 1900.

Sir,—I am directed by the Elder Brethren to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 23rd ultimo, forwarding copy of correspondence relative to the lighting of the approaches to the Harbour of Hongkong.

In reply I am to acquaint you, for the information of Mr. Secretary Chamberlain, that the Elder Brethren have given the matter their careful consideration, and are of opinion that it would be a decided improvement to the lighting of the approaches to Hongkong if Commander Rumsey's proposals as to Green Island and Cape Collinson were carried out. They would therefore recommend that a new tower be erected on Green Island adjacent to the present one, and the disused lantern and apparatus from Cape D'Aguiar fitted therein, the focal plane of the light to be 110 feet above high water, so that it may have a range of visibility of 16 miles, and they are further of opinion that the light should be occulting, giving one occultation of three seconds duration every 20 seconds.

They also recommend that the Fourth Order Lantern and Apparatus now in use at Green Island be transferred to Cape Collinson, and a new structure erected there for the purpose, adjacent to the present building, the focal plane of the light to be the same as at present, viz., about 200 feet, and the Elder Brethren are of opinion that this light also should be occulting, giving one occultation of three seconds duration every ten seconds.

In reply to your enquiry as regards the elevation of the lights, I am to state that for practical purposes their effect will not be impaired if exhibited at the heights named above.

If it is decided to adopt the suggestion as to the lights being occulting, I am to request that this may be stated when the requisition for the supply of the necessary machinery is made.

The original documents accompanying your letter are returned herewith as requested.—I am, &c.

(Signed) CHAS. A. KENT.

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

MESSRS. CHANCE'S ESTIMATES.

4th December, 1900.

CAPE D'AGUILAR FIRST ORDER LIGHT.

Occulting gear for changing the present Fixed Light into an Occulting Light, to produce occultations at intervals to be decided upon, comprising:—Clockwork complete, with driving chain, and spare chain, lead driving weights, snatch block and back balance chain, sheet-iron dropping cylinder, over-head gear springs, chains, brackets, adjustable clip brackets, bushed brackets for overhead gear, pawl for crank disc spare chains, two spare spiral springs, two spare chain pulleys, one spare double-ended lever, one spare trigger, spare screws, &c.

To be set up and tested in our Works

Packed and delivered f.o.b. in London for the sum of £130 (One hundred and thirty pounds).

GREEN ISLAND FOURTH ORDER LIGHT.

Occulting Gear, &c., exactly as above.

Packed and delivered f.o.b. in London for the sum of £125 (One hundred and twenty-five pounds).

We should require to know the period desired

for the occultation, how many seconds dark and how many seconds light. Also the diameter of the burner to insure correct size of the dropping cylinder.

A weight tube for conducting the driving weights should be provided in the tower.

CHANCE BROTHERS & CO., LIMITED.

THE "AJAX" AFFAIR AT YOKOHAMA

The *J. pan Mail* has the following comments on the case (which we have already mentioned) of Mr. Gilmour, third officer of the steamer *Ajax*, who was by a Yokohama tribunal sentenced to 15 days imprisonment for pounding the face of a coolie so that, according to medical testimony, the man was incapacitated for duty during a period of 20 days:—

The sentence is undoubtedly severe, but we are inclined to ask when this brutal system of resorting to personal violence is to terminate. One of our local contemporaries writes in very strong terms about the incident. It has no hesitation in concluding that the coolie lied when he denied having used abusive language to the third officer, and it even goes so far as to suggest that the two doctors who gave medical testimony about the coolie's injuries were incompetent. Such things are possible, of course, but we cannot for one instant agree with our contemporary's dictum that "to address men of the coolie class, to which Tanaka belongs, in dulcet tones would be more likely to excite their derision than their obedience." That, we believe, is precisely the delusion that leads to scenes like that on the *Ajax*. The Japanese coolie, as a general rule, is much more amenable to gentle treatment than to the exercise of brute force or violence in any form whether of act or word. In 99 cases out of every hundred he will resent the latter vehemently, whereas in not more than one case out of every hundred will he fail to yield to the former. Like begets like. It is because officers of ships too often believe in physical force as the only effectual weapon for securing obedience that incidents arise which lead them to disgrace themselves by committing assaults. After all is said and done the fact cannot be gainsaid that the racial question enters largely into these matters. Would Mr. Gilmour have planted his fist in the eye of a British dock-hand under similar circumstances?

HONGKONG.

Lieuts. G. J. B. Sayer and G. C. Fullerton, Hongkong Volunteer Corps, have been granted two and twelve months' leave of absence respectively.

The Hon. C. McL. Messer has been appointed a Director of the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund during the absence on leave of the Hon. A. M. Thomson.

H. M. S. *Glory* arrived from Woosung on the 28th inst. On the same day the British store-ship *Humber* left for Shanghai. The French gunboat *Vipère* left on the 26th inst. for Saigon.

Commodore F. Powell, R.N., C.B., Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz (Hon. Sec.) and the Hon. W. Chatham have been elected members of Church Body, in the place of the Hon. W. M. Goodman, K.C., and Messrs. R. D. Ormsby and A. Bryer, resigned.

The Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, has not gone on leave to Japan as previously stated, but will proceed up the Yangtze as far as Ichang, and possibly may also visit Tientsin after his return to Shanghai.

On the 28th inst., about 9 a.m., a little Chinese boy of four years of age was playing on the verandah of his parents' house at 26, Taipingshan Street, when he overbalanced and fell to the ground, a distance of forty feet. He died three hours later from injuries to his head.

Plant sales from the Botanic Gardens continue to increase, as during 1900, 3,451 plants were disposed of, being an increase of 641 over the previous year's sales. Of these, nearly 3,000 were sold for decorative purposes, no less than 2,042 maidenhair ferns being included in this number.

Capt. G. W. D. B. Lloyd, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, has been seconded for service with Mounted Infantry in South Africa.

On the 27th ult. a coolie fell down the hold of the steamer *Diamond*, and sustained serious injuries. He was removed to the Tung Wah Hospital by his friends.

H.M.S. *Lizard* arrived on the 2nd inst. from Pakhoi, while H.M.S. *Hermione* left for Woosung. The U.S. monitor *Monterey* reached here from Canton on the 30th ult., and the U.S. gunboat *Concord* left for Amoy yesterday.

The return of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum last week shows that the former institution was visited by 429 non-Chinese and 134 Chinese, the latter by 57 non-Chinese and 2,063 Chinese.

On the 27th inst. an evening concert was held in the Diocesan School. There was a large attendance both of the school-boys and of the public, who greatly appreciated the effort of their entertainers. The following ladies and gentlemen took part:—Mr. Stringer, Misses King, Leykum, and Chunyut; Messrs. During, Coaster, and Whittick; Sergt. Simmers and Pte. Townley. Miss Chunyut's song from *A Runaway Girl* was well worthy of the encore it evoked. The Rev. J. H. France ably fulfilled the duties of chairman.

A correspondent writes that he noticed on the 1st inst., when coming over from Kowloon to Hongkong, four coolies carrying two large baskets of clothes from plague-stricken people getting into the launch *Guiding Star*. "This," he says, "is an excellent means of spreading plague, and considering the large number of passengers going to and fro by these launches, the Sanitary Board ought to know about it." If the facts are as stated, we cordially agree with our correspondent. The matter is one which should be enquired into at once.

At the annual convocation of the District Grand Chapter of Hongkong and South China held on the 29th inst., M. E. Companion L. Mallory presided, and invested the Officers for the ensuing year. The appointments made by the Grand Superintendent were as under:—M. E. Comps.—L. Mallory, District Second Grand Principal; F. W. Heuermann, District Third Grand Principal; A. O'D. Gourdin, D. G. Scribe E.; F. W. Edwards, D. G. Scribe N.; T. F. Hough, D. G. Prin. Com. of General Purposes; D. Macdonald, D. G. Treasurer; A. Shilton Hooper, D. G. Registrar; F. Salinger, D. G. Prin. Sojourner; J. G. Götz, D. G. 1st Assist. Sojourner; L. A. Byworth, D. G. 2nd Assist. Sojourner; G. W. Crombie, D. G. Sword Bearer; G. J. B. Sayer, D. G. Standard Bearer; G. P. Lammert, D. G. Organist; E. Comps.—J. Hutchison, D. G. Standard Bearer; W. J. Tatcher, D. G. Standard Bearer; F. W. Clark, D. G. Standard Bearer; Amoy, D. G. Direc. of Ceremonies; Basil Taylor, D. G. Dep. of Ceremonies; F. T. Richards, D. G. Assist. of Ceremonies; Comp.—J. Maxwell, D. G. Janitor.

A highly interesting concert was given in the Sailors' Institute, Kowloon, on Tuesday, the 30th ult., by friends from the Torpedo Depot. Besides the sailors a large number of sympathisers were present, including a good many soldiers. The various items on the programme were very well rendered and the audience testified their appreciation by their frequent rounds of applause. Where all was of a high order, the efforts of Mr. Kessick, R.N., Mr. Allen and Mr. Hooks, R.N., were specially well received. The programme consisted of a song by Mr. Warder, "Queen of the Earth." Mrs. Brand sang tastefully "Another Day," and was followed in good style by Mr. Butler in "True till Death." Mr. Allen recited "Look at the Block," after which "Larboard Watch" was sympathetically sung by Messrs. Warder and Brand, a humorous song by Mr. Books, R.N., concluding the first part of the performance. Part II. was opened by a stump speech by Mr. Kessick, R.N., which was followed by a song, the "Holy City," by Mr. Warder. The other items in Part II. were a song by Mrs. Brand entitled "Tit for Tat," "When your Hair grows Whiter, Mother" by Mr. Rubie, recitation by Mr. Allen, "My First and Last Appearance," concluding with a song, "The Yaller Girl," by Mr. Hooks, R.N. A very hearty vote of thanks having been accorded to the performers, a pleasant evening was brought to a close with "God Save the King."

The British transport *Ula* arrived on Friday from Taku.

H.M.S.S. *Arethusa* and *Aurora* returned on the 30th inst. from Singapore.

The warrant and non-commissioned officers of the Royal Engineers gave a dance on the 2nd inst. at Wellington Barracks.

The P. & O. steamer *Japan* arrived on Friday forenoon with about 50 tons of explosives. She dropped anchor in the man-of-war anchorage.

Fire broke out on the 1st inst. on the first floor of a tobacco-drying shop at 21, East Street. The Fire Brigade, under Deputy Superintendent Badeley, attended, and was successful in confining the outbreak to its original location. The damage amounts to \$500, and is well covered by insurance.

The final tie for the Challenge Cup (Handicap) presented to the Hongkong Chess Club by Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., has been settled in favour of Mr. P. W. Sergeant, who defeated Colonel The O'Gorman by three games to one, with one draw. Mr. Sergeant, having won the Cup twice in succession, it becomes now his property according to the conditions under which Mr. Pollock presented it.

A visitation of ill-luck has befallen the officers of H.M.S. *Arethusa* in connection with the visit of the ship to Singapore to assist in the reception of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York. An attack of fever incapacitated two of the lieutenants, who had to be left behind at Singapore, while two more have been laid up with the same complaint since the *Arethusa's* arrival here.

Mr. J. A. Ross, lately of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's, who acted as referee during the past football season, was a passenger by the *Princess Irene* on the 1st inst. Whilst pursuing his favourite game he met with an accident which necessitated him undergoing an operation. This, however, proved unsuccessful, and Mr. Ross has departed for London to seek further advice.

Five sergeants of police left for home by the *Princess Irene* on the 1st inst. on nine months' leave of absence each. They originally purposed going by the *Chusan*, but were prevented by an outbreak of small-pox on board that steamer. Their passages were transferred to the *Sobraon*, which is now aground on Tung Yung Island. Places for them were then found on the *Princess Irene*, and the five departed on the 1st inst.

During the year 1900, 623 trees were reported to the Botanical and Afforestation Department as having been illicitly cut down and removed. This is slightly less than the number (640) for the previous year. The forest guards brought forward 54 cases, and obtained 49 convictions, against 25 cases and 24 convictions in 1899. Mr. Tatcher says that the year was fortunate as regards fires, only 25 being reported, with a destruction of 2,067 trees, compared with 52 fires and 13,299 trees in 1899. Eight of the fires did no damage to trees, only grass being burnt. A fire which destroyed 60 trees occurred near Tytam Reservoir, and was caused by a party of Europeans picnicking on 26th December. Many of the fires are undoubtedly caused by the careless use of matches by pedestrians, and this is probably how the fire near Pokfulam occurred, which destroyed nearly 800 trees.

The following paragraph occurs in the report of Mr. W. J. Tatcher, Acting Superintendent of the Botanical and Afforestation Department, under the heading of "Public Recreation Ground, Kowloon":—A piece of land immediately to the north of Austin Road, and east of Garden Lots 21 and 48, comprising about 11 acres, was placed under this Department, for converting into a public recreation ground, and a vote of \$2,000 has been placed in the Estimates to commence the work in 1901. After the land had been placed under this Department, the Kowloon Bowling Club made an application for a piece of ground (30,000 square feet) on the site of the proposed recreation ground, and obtained a lease from the Government for the same. The original plans, therefore, of Mr. Ford, for draining and laying out the ground, will have to be abandoned, and others substituted.

Three important captures of insurgents are reported from Manila, Torres and Morales having surrendered in Luzon, and Torribo in Mindanao.

MISCELLANEOUS.

There is a good deal of beri-beri just now in Bangkok.

A memorial to the late Mr. Sim is to be erected on the Recreation Ground at Kobe.

A letter is published in the *Straits Times* from a Chinaman resident in Singapore, explaining that the reason why the Chinese did not hold their procession in honour of the Royal visitors on a grander scale than had been arranged is because they felt very much annoyed to see the ricksha-pullers of H.R.H.'s suite having buttons of different grades on their heads. This, says the correspondent, they took as an insult.

The death from plague of two French soldiers is reported from Kwanchauwan. It is stated that the inhabitants are protesting against the Government for denying the existence of any plague at Kwanchauwan and refusing to take any preventive measures. *Le Courrier d'Haiphong* makes a vigorous attack on the authorities and comments severely on the fact that the Administrator of the territory has left the place on a voyage of unknown duration.

A London telegram of the 17th ult. says:—At a meeting of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, the Chairman congratulated the Indian Government on setting aside the profit on the coinage of silver. The survival of the fittest, he said, seemed the only solution of the rivalry between Indian and Ceylon tea, unless it was generally agreed to reduce plucking for two or three years. The Chairman also said that failing a reduction of the national expenditure a new Japanese foreign loan seemed inevitable.

Cambodia has an area of about 120,000 square kilometres, almost double that of Cochin-China, says *L'Avenir du Tonkin*, but the population only amounts to 2,500,000. Four-fifths of the people live along the banks of the Mekong; they are poor, and there is little trade. But the country itself contains great natural wealth. In the whole of this protected kingdom there are about 50 Europeans, of whom 53 are colonists, and 254 officials. There are 117,755 Chinese. The Phnompenh branch of the Banque de l'Indo-Chine had a turn-over of 4,750,000 francs in 1895, of 7,298,451 francs in 1896, and 8,411,424 francs in 1897.

It is a curious fact that the *Sobraon* was in collision before she left Shanghai. The mishap occurred in the river at 10.15 a.m. on the 21st ult., opposite the Shanghai and Hongkong Wharf. The *Almond Branch* was moored to the China Merchants' No. 1 buoy and the *Sobraon* to the P. & O. No. 2 buoy. Under ordinary circumstances there is ample room at these buoys for ships of ordinary magnitude, but on this occasion some peculiarity in the flood-tide caused the *Almond Branch* to swing round sooner than the *Sobraon*, and consequently the sterns of the vessels collided. The *Almond Branch* had several spars, etc., carried away and sustained damages to the amount of about £200. The *Sobraon* suffered no damage of any importance and was able to proceed on her way.

The amount of claims recognised by the bankrupt firm in the Middleton and Smith Bankruptcy case up to date reaches 147,565.39 yen, including 1,062.70 yen for the North China Insurance Company for insurance premiums; 50.9 yen to the Normal Dispensary for articles supplied; 890 yen to Lyons & Co. for freight; 666.66 yen to Mr. James Heratton; 58.88 yen to Messrs. Walsh, Hall & Co.; and 469 yen to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. for goods supplied; 499.50 yen to Messrs. Frazer & Co., of Shanghai, for the balance of account; 6,679.28 yen to the Fauley Iron Foundry of England for the payment of the proceeds of a consignment; 6,136.80 yen to Messrs. Robison & Co. and 2,219.13 yen to the Robison Silk Trading Co. for the balance of the account; 735 yen to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., for hire for two months; 40,527.37 yen to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank for loans; 175 yen to Mr. Spencer Gracey; 350 yen to Mr. A. S. Hamilton; 60 yen to Mr. Gunn for wages; 560 yen to Mr. F. A. Vivanti for house rent for four months; 64,932.19 yen to the Chartered Bank for loans. Many other claims of Japanese creditors are recognised by the bankrupt firm.

The 41st and 42nd Volunteer regiments are expected to leave Manila for the States on the 10th inst.

Mr. A. R. Colquhoun joined the United States Civil Commission in the Philippines at Iloilo, and has been spending some time with them in the south.

M. Pavloff, the Russian Minister, left Seoul on the 20th ult. He was recently bitten by a mad dog, and has left to go to Saigon for treatment. The actual wound is slight.

The coiners in Bangkok who were raided recently by the police were using type, both Siamese and English, to manufacture their bullet-shaped ticals. Most of it was Siamese type, and some of it new.

Mr. W. Toms, formerly sergeant of the Settlement Police at Kobe and latterly in the employment of Messrs. Nickel & Co., was found dead in his house on the morning of the 22nd ult., having committed suicide by cutting his throat.

A Tientsin telegram to Japan states that Germany has taken possession of some 50,000 tsubo of land between the race-course and the concession, for the purpose of extending her concession at Tientsin. The territory was formally taken over on the 17th ult.

In consequence of Mr. J. H. Longford, H.B.M. Consul at Nagasaki, having left by the *Princess Irene*, Mr. R. G. Forster, First Assistant in the Consular Service, has been appointed to act as H.B.M. Consul at Nagasaki. Mr. J. T. Wawn, of the Nagasaki Consulate, has also left there to take charge of H.B.M. Consulate at Tamsui.

A *Munichi* telegram dated Tokyo, April 25th, says:—It was previously reported that the Russian marines in Bankumi, near Masampo—fifteen in all, under command of an officer—would be withdrawn in deference to the representation of the Japanese Government, but the latest arrangement is that seven men shall stay there as police, it being understood that they are not to carry weapons.

A small zoological expedition is starting from England for the Malay Peninsula. They intend to settle for a year in the native State of Jalor, and to explore the neighbourhood of Patani and Biseret. Collections will be made in all branches of natural history, while one of the special objects of the expedition is the study of the pre-Malayan tribes of Negrito stock who inhabit the centre of the peninsula. A thorough investigation will also be made of the fauna—both living and extinct—of certain very large limestone caves which are found in the district, and are said to extend for great distances underground. The birds of the district will also be studied, and observations made on mimicry and allied phenomena. The ethnographical work ought to be interesting, since Jalor is on the borderland in which the Siamese and Malay races meet.

An *Ostasiatische Lloyd* telegram from Peking on the 29th ult. says:—The French have evacuated Huoluhsien and Chengtingfu and withdrawn all their troops to Paotingfu. The action of the French has created a great surprise in Peking, especially as after the attack of the German Brigade at the Great Wall and the Kukuan Pass all the Chinese troops had not been dispersed beyond the demarcation line. It is true that the larger part of the German expedition had left and was also returning to Paotingfu, as there were no Chinese troops in the sphere assigned to the Germans, but large parties of Boxers have been reported moving south of the road from Chengtingfu to Huoluhsien, Tsinghing and the Kukuan Pass, and this is within the territory assigned for occupation and pacification to the French. Consequently Major-General von Kettler despatched at once reconnoitring detachments from Foupingsien. The German losses of the last expedition are now reported to be four killed and fifty wounded. The headquarters have announced to-night that after the centre of the army of General Liu Kuang-tai had been repulsed a few days ago by General von Kettler's brigade, where the Thao River crosses under the Great Wall north of the Kukuan Pass, the battalions under Lieut.-Col. von Wallmuenich and Major von Mülmann also attacked the right wing of Liu's troops, about five miles south of Kukuan. The Chinese were driven back into the province of Shansi with heavy losses.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1900-1	1899-00
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	25,211,137	26,657,060
Kobe	—	—
	25,211,137	26,657,060

SILK.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1900-1901	1899-00
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	—	—
Yokohama	27,302	31,842
	27,302	31,842

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1900-1901	1899-00
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	—	—
Yokohama	23,024	18,615
	23,024	18,615

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 3rd May.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 3rd May.—The quotation is the same as when last reported. Quotations are:—
 shekloong, No. 1, White.....\$8.80 to \$9.85 per cwt.
 do. " 2, White..... 7.95 to 8.00 "
 shekloong, No. 1, Brown ... 5.90 to 5.95 "
 do. " 2, Brown ... 5.8 to 5.85 "
 Swatow, No. 1, White..... 8.75 to 8.80 "
 do. " 1, White..... 7.90 to 7.95 "
 Swatow, No. 1, Brown ... 5.85 to 5.90 "
 do. " 2, Brown ... 5.75 to 5.80 "
 Foochow Sugar Candy.....13.35 to 13.40 "
 shekloong "12.75 to 12.80 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 3rd May.—A further decline in prices is reported, market being dull. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.45 to 2.50
" Round, Good quality	3.40 to 3.45
" Long	3.50 to 3.55
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.60 to 2.65
" Garden, " No. 1	3.20 to 3.25
" White	3.65 to 3.70
" Fine Cargo	3.95 to 4.00

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Coptic*, sailed on the 13th April. For San Francisco:—183 pkgs. tea, 17 cases silk. For Punta Arenas:—5 cases silk. For Guayaquil:—4 cases silk. For New York:—186 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Idomeneus*, sailed on the 17th April. For London:—878 bales hemp, 100 bales bambooware, 50 bales waste silk, 20 bales tea mats, 198 rolls matting, 85 cases Chinaware, 41 cases blackwoodware, 20 cases essential oil, 1 case cigars, 529 pkgs. naval stores, 11 pkgs. curios and P. effects, 23 pkgs. sundries. For London opt. Hamburg:—115 bales canes. For London opt. Hamburg opt. Antwerp opt. Havre:—2,640 bags copra. For London opt. Manchester:—80 bales waste silk. For Manchester:—100 bales waste silk, 1 case cotton goods.

Per steamer *Agamemnon*, sailed on the 20 April. For London:—10 cases essential oil.

Per steamer *Oceanien*, sailed on the 22nd April. For Marseilles:—247 bales raw silk, 20 cases silk piece goods, 3 cases curios, 3 cases books, 160 pkgs. tea. For Havre:—234 rolls matting, 39 pkgs. curios. For Lyons:—667 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Tantalus*, sailed on the 16th Apr. For Liverpool:—4,740 bales hemp, 2 bales fishing line, 10 cases P. effects, 2 cases porcelain, 2 cases curios, 3 pkgs. sundries. For Manchester:—75 bales waste silk.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 3rd May.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*: 750 bales No. 10 at \$81 to \$89, 500 bales No. 12 at \$87 to \$89, 300 bales No. 16 at \$96 to \$98.

2,200 bales No. 20 at \$97.50 to \$104. Grey Shirtings: 1,200 pieces 8½ Red Cock at \$2.95, 600 pieces 8½ Red Peach at \$3, 500 pieces 8½ Red 5 Man at \$3.85, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Stag at \$4.40, 800 pieces 8½ Red Peach at \$3, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 Man at \$4.82½, 1,800 pieces 8½ lbs. Red Fish at \$2.80, 2,400 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Fish at \$2.90. White Shirtings: 50½ pieces Blue Dragon at \$5, 300 pieces Gold Tiger at \$7.80, 250 pieces 800 at \$15, 1,500 pieces D-70 at \$4.10, 250 pieces 3"0 at \$4, 500 pieces D-70 at \$4. Mexicans: 300 pieces 88 Gold Dragon at \$2.05.

COTTON YARN— per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....\$78.00 to \$100.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....138.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS— per piece.
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. 2.10 to 2.15
7 lbs. 2.40 to 2.50
8½ lbs. 2.80 to 3.50
9 to 10 lbs. 3.00 to 4.40
White Shirtings—54 to 68 rd. 2.50 to 2.75
58 to 60 " 3.15 to 4.00
64 to 66 " 4.20 to 5.50
Fine.....5.10 to 7.75
Book-folds.....4.30 to 6.20
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....0.75 to 1.50
T-Cloths—8lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y 1.70 to 1.85
7lbs. (32 ") " 1.90 to 2.20
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs. 1.90 to 2.15
7lbs. (32 ") " 2.75 to 3.60
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.) 2.80 to 3.50
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16 lbs. 4.20 to 7.00

FANCY COTTONS—
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs 1.55 to 5.00

Brocades—Dyed..... to —
Chintzes—Assorted.....0.08½ to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in.0.22½ to 0.00
Velveteens—18 in.0.20 to 0.32½

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.36 to 2.50

WOOLENS— per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops 0.80 to 1.50
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.25 to 2.50

Long Ells—Scarlet.....6.40 to 10.00
Assorted.....6.50 to 10.10
Camlets—Assorted.....12.50 to 32.00

METALS— per picul
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches Assorted 8.00 to 20.00
Orleans—Plain.....8.50 to 10.00

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.4.00 to 18.00

Iron—Nail Rod.....4.50 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.) 4.25 to —
Swedish Bar.....5.75 to —
Small Round Rod.....4.60 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.5.25 to —
Wire 15/25.....8.50 to —
Old Wire Rope.....2.50 to —

Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop 8.80 to —
Australian.....8.70 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz 14/20 oz. 41.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz. 41.0 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz. 41.0 to —
New Chops 14/20 oz. 00 to —

Composition Nails.....63.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs.....43.00 to —
Tin.....60.00 to —

Tin-Plates.....7.00 to —
Steel ½ to ¾.....5.80 to —

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 4th May.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON—
Telegraphic Transfer.....1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand.....1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight.....1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight.....1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight.....2/0½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight.....2/0½

ON PARIS—
Bank Bills, on demand.....2.48½
Credits, 4 months' sight.....2.53

ON GERMANY—
On demand.....2.01½

ON NEW YORK—
Bank Bills, on demand.....48½
Credits, 60 days' sight.....49½

ON BOMBAY—
Telegraphic Transfer.....147½
Bank, on demand.....147½

ON CALCUTTA—
Telegraphic Transfer.....147½
Bank, on demand.....147½
ON SHANGHAI—
Bank, at sight.....72½
Private, 30 days' sight.....73½
ON YOKOHAMA—
On demand.....2½ p.m.
ON MANILA—
On demand.....2 p.m.
ON SINGAPORE—
On demand.....1 p.m.
ON BATAVIA—
On demand.....118½
ON HAIPHONG—
On demand.....2½ p.m.
ON SAIGON—
On demand.....2 p.m.
ON BANGKOK—
On demand.....60½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate.....10.02
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael.....52
BAR SILVER per oz.27½

VERNON & SMYTH'S SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 3rd May.—During the past week a good general demand for most of the principal stocks has been met with, and business has been brisk at advancing rates.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been sold at rates rising to 390 per cent. premium, and it is probable that more shares could be placed at that figure. The London rate has advanced to £62. 15s. 0d. Nationals are unchanged.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have advanced to \$317, at which there are buyers. China Traders have been placed at \$57 to \$58. Cantons have been sold at \$170 and have further buyers at the rate.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have continued in demand, but not until \$360 was reached could shares be obtained. The market closes firm at this figure. China Fires have been placed at \$56½ and \$57½ and the demand continues at the latter figure.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been sold in moderate quantities at \$34½ and \$35 and more shares are to be had at the latter rate. Indo-Chinas have improved their position, and after sales at \$129 and \$130 are in further demand at \$131. China Manillas are wanted at \$66 and \$53 for the old and new shares respectively. Douglases have been sold at \$51 and \$51½ and have further buyers at \$52½. Star Ferries (old) have been sold at \$24½, at which more shares are wanted. The new shares are obtainable at \$10. Shells and China Mutuals are unchanged at quotations.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are quiet at \$185. Luzons are weak with sellers at \$38.

MINING.—Punjoma, ordinary, are wanted at \$6. Preferences are in the market at \$120. Charbonnages have declined to \$290, at which there are sellers. Jolebus are wanted at \$5.20. Raubs have come into the market from Singapore, and have been sold at \$39, \$38, \$37 and \$36. More shares are to be had at the last-named rate. Olivers are quiet at quotations.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been the medium of an extensive business at rates rising to \$317½ for cash, and up to \$335 for August delivery. At the close a few shares may perhaps be had at \$315 cash. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been done at \$102, but have since weakened to \$101, at which a few shares are on offer. Wanchais are on offer at \$63. New Amoy Docks are wanted at \$22½.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been sold at \$189 cash, and the market closes with sellers at \$200. West Points are in demand at \$53. Hongkong Hotels have been placed at rapidly rising rates to \$128, and the demand continues. Humphreys Estates have been sold at \$13½ and \$13½, and more shares are wanted.

COTTON MILLS.—The only change of note is a fall in Yehloongs to Tls. 25. Hongkong Cottons are to be had at \$7½.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cement continued in request at \$18½, and after a few sales at that figure, the rate was raised to \$19, at which a good business has been done, and more shares could probably be placed. China Borneos are to be had at \$38. A. S. Watson & Co.'s are wanted at \$17. Hongkong Elec-

trics have been sold at \$12½ for the old shares. The new shares are quiet at \$6.90. Hongkong Ices have still further improved, and are wanted at \$172½.

CIGAR SHARES are in demand at quotations. Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		\$390 p. ct. prem.—
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	[£612½]
China & Japan, ordy.	24	21
Do. deferred	21	25 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares.....	28	\$27, buyers
B. Shares.....	28	\$27, buyers
Found. Shares...	21	\$15, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	21	31
Campbell, Moore & Co.	10	20
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	15	\$38, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	20	20, nominal
China Prov. L. & M....	10	\$9.15, sales
China Sugar.....	100	\$185.
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra, Limited...	\$500	\$1,500, buyers
La Commercial, Ltd...	\$500	\$1,000, buyers
Hensiana, Limited...	\$100	\$100, buyers
La Favorita, Ltd.	\$500	\$1,000, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 46, buyers
International.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 40.
Laon Kung Mow.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 50.
Soychee.....	Tls. 500	Tls. 325.
Yahloong.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 25.
Hongkong.....	\$100	\$7½, sellers
Dairy Farm.....	86	\$7, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo....	\$25	\$55, sellers
Green Island Cement...	10	\$19, sellers
H. & C. Bakery.....	\$50	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas...	210	\$135, buyers
Hongkong Electric.....	10	\$12½, sales
H. H. L. Tramways.....	5	\$8.9½, sellers
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$7.
Hongkong Hotel.....	\$50	\$128, buyers
Hongkong Ice.....	\$25	\$172½, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G....	\$50	\$101, sellers
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$157½.
H. & W. Dock.....	\$50	\$315, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton.....	\$50	\$170, buyers
China Fire.....	\$20	\$87½, buyers
China Traders.....	\$25	\$58.
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$360.
North China.....	225	Tls. 175, ex div.
Straits.....	\$20	nominal.
Union.....	\$50	\$315, buyers
Yangtze.....	\$00	\$125, ex div., buys.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$200, sellers
Humphreys Estate...	10	\$13½, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30.
West Point Building	\$50	\$53, buyers
Luzon Sugar.....	\$100	\$38, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages.....	Fcs. 250	\$290, sellers
Jolebu.....	\$5	\$5.20, buyers
Queen's Mines, Ltd....	25c.	7 cents, sellers
Oliver's Mines, A....	\$5	\$14.
Do. B....	34½	\$1.50.
Punjom.....	\$9	\$8, buyers
Do. Performance...	\$1	\$1.20, sellers
Raubs.....	18	\$38, sellers
New Amoy Dock.....	\$34½	\$22½, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$80, sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$30	\$50, nominal
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila...	\$50	\$63, buyers
China Mutual Pref.	210	\$63, buyers
China Ordinary.....	210	212.
Do.....	25	27.
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$52½, buyers
H. Canton and M....	15	\$35, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	210	\$131, buyers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.....	21	23, sellers
Star Ferry.....	\$10	\$24½, a. & bys.
Tebrau Planting Co....	\$5	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos.....	24	\$10, buyers
Do.....	\$10	\$20.
Wanchai Warehouse...	\$37½	\$63, sellers
Watkins, Ltd.....	\$10	\$10, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$17, buyers
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$19½, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 23rd April (From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—Rates continue firm in the share market and a good general business has been transacted during the week. BANKS.—Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Shares changed hands locally at 365, 370 and 380 per cent. prem. for cash and 30th instant, and at 380 per cent. prem. for 10th and 31st May; the market closes firm with buyers. National Banks are wanted at \$27. INSURANCE.—Are wanted. Were placed at \$154 and \$163 and are offering. Yangtzes sold at \$137.50 cum div. FIRES.—Chinas were purchased locally at \$85 and are in request. SHIPPING.—The market has ruled strong during the week and cash rates have advanced to Tls. 96, the market closing firm, with no sellers at this figure; forward prices also show marked improvement on previous rates and are based on anticipations of a good dividend for the closing business year. The following are the settlements:—April 95 and 96, May 96 and 97, June 95 to 98, locally July 97 to 100, August 10th and 31st 100, September 101 and October 102.50. MINING.—Sold at Tls. 165 and 167.50. SUGARS.—An interim div. of 8 per cent has been declared payable on 30th instant. DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS (Messrs. Farnham, Boyd & Company, Limited).—The market has been easier during the week; sales have been made up to Tls. 307.50, but business closes at 302.50 with buyers at a lower figure; forward rates have weakened somewhat and the following are the settlements:—April 302.50 and 307.50, May 312.50, June 317.50, July 320, August 322.50, 325, 322.50 and 320. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares were placed at 320 for cash and end of the month and at 340 for August. LANDS.—Shanghais were placed and are steady at Tls. 125. INDUSTRIAL.—Gas shares sold at Tls. 120 and are offering. In Cotton Mills, Ewos were placed at Tls. 45 and Laon Kung Mow at 50, while Internationals are wanted. Ice shares changed hands at Tls. 37.50 and 38, and are offering. Flour Mills sold at Tls. 32.50 and Cements at \$18.25. TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.—Shanghai Tugs are wanted and Taku Tugs are offering. Cargo Boats are quiet. MISCELLANEOUS.—Waterworks shares sold at Tls. 340. Sumatra Tobacco shares are offering. Langkat Tobacco Co.—Cash business during week has been done from Tls. 360 to Tls. 340; market closes steady with sales and buyers at Tls. 345. The following are the settlements:—April Tls. 355, 350 and 352.50, June Tls. 365, July Tls. 370 and 367.50, August Tls. 375, 380 and 370, and October Tls. 395. Llewellyns were placed at \$55, Hall & Holtz, Limited.—The report and accounts for the year ending 28th February last have been published for presentation at the meeting of shareholders called for 30th instant. The net profits are \$42,538, or 16 per cent. of the capital. Including \$9,513.82 brought forward from last year and deducting interim dividend of \$1 paid in November last, there is a sum of \$41,991.32 available for distribution, which the Directors recommend to be appropriated as follows:—Final Dividend of \$2 amounting to \$26,242, writing off Fixtures Account \$2,187.37 and carry forward balance of \$13,561.95 to new account. Shares changed hands and are offering at \$35. Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—The Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st December last are published for presentation at the meeting called for 25th instant. The net profits on the year's working amount to Tls. 25,759.96, which added to the balance forward from 1899, Tls. 18,742.09, shows a total of Tls. 44,502.05 at credit of Profit and Loss Account. The sum of Tls. 15,000 has been placed to Reserve Fund, as previously arranged; and the Directors recommend payment of a dividend of 10 per cent and bonus of 5 per cent, which will absorb Tls. 13,500 and leave Tls. 16,002.05 to be carried forward to 1901 account. Shares were placed at Tls. 100 and are wanted. DEPARTURES.—Shanghai Land Investment 5 1/2 per cent. were placed at Tls. 97 and Perak 7 per cent. at Tls. 105, cum accrued interest. E. Loan Bonds are offering

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—Ballaarat (str.), Canton (str.), Calchas (str.), Ajax (str.), Antenor (str.), Awa Maru (str.).

FOR LIVERPOOL.—Ulysses (str.), Pyrrhus (str.).

FOR MARSEILLES.—Yarra (str.), Awa Maru (str.).

FOR BREMEN.—Prinz Heinrich (str.), Konigsberg (str.).

FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Konigsberg (str.), Segovia (str.), Dittenburg (str.).

FOR TRIESTE.—Gisela (str.).

FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Kinshiu Maru (str.), Tacoma (str.).

FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of India (str.), Athenian (str.).

FOR PORTLAND (OREGON).—Knight Companion (str.).

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—Gaelic (str.), Hongkong Maru (str.), China (str.).

FOR NEW YORK.—Fernand (str.), Astoria (str.).

FOR SAN DIEGO.—Carlisle City (str.).

FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Kasuga Maru (str.), Guthrie (str.).

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND BOMBAY.—Bisagno (str.), Hiroshima Maru (str.).

FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—Hiroshima Maru (str.), Bisagno (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

April—

26, Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str. from Y'hama.
27, Eastern, British str. from Australia.
27, Diamante, British str. from Manila.
27, Chihli, British str. from Chinkiang.
27, Moyune, British str. from Seattle.
27, Choysang, British str. from Chinkiang.
27, Glory, British battleship, from Woosung.
27, Etruria, British str. from Wuhu.
27, Whampoa, British str. from Shanghai.
27, Wingsang, British str. from Swatow.
28, A. Macleod, Amr. str. from Iloilo.
28, Ajax, British str. from Shanghai.
28, Loongsang, British str. from Manila.
28, Phra C. Klao, British str. from Bangkok.
28, Kwanglee, British str. from Canton.
29, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str. from Haiphong.
29, Holstein, German str. from Saigon.
29, Hue, French str. from Haiphong.
29, Progress, German str. from Touron.
29, Tientain, British str. from London.
29, Esang, British str. from Tonku.
29, Sandakan, German str. from Sandakan.
29, Taishun, Amr. str. from Shanghai.
30, Princess Irene, Ger. str. from Shanghai.
30, Preussen, German str. from Bremen.
30, Thales, British str. from Swatow.
30, Wineland, Danish str. from Saigon.
30, Arethusa, British cruiser, from Singapore.
30, Aurora, British cruiser, from Singapore.
30, Haitan, British str. from Coast Ports.
30, Gaelic, British str. from San Francisco.
30, Mongkut, German str. from Bangkok.
30, Kashing, British str. from Canton.
30, Apenrade, German str. from Canton.
30, Monterey, U.S. monitor, from Canton.

May—

1, Lizard, British gunboat, from Pakhoi.
1, Wingsang, British str. from Canton.
1, Kwongsang, British str. from Chinkiang.
1, Canton, British str. from Swatow.
1, Konigsberg, German str. from Shanghai.
1, Hakata Maru, Japanese str. from Moji.
1, Kalgan, British str. from Wuhun.
1, Maohew, German str. from Bangkok.
1, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str. from Taiwanfoo.
1, Hong Bee, British str. from Straits.
1, Kinshiu Maru, Japanese str. from Moji.
2, Dardanus, British str. from Liverpool.
2, Glengarry, British str. from New York.
2, Pakhoi, British str. from Canton.
2, Phranang, German str. from Bangkok.
2, Taintau, German str. from Newchwang.
2, Irene, Chinese str. from Chefoo.
2, Catherine Apcar, Brit. str. from Calcutta.
3, Lindula, British str. from Madras.
3, Glengyle, British str. from Saigon.
3, Haitan, British str. from Swatow.
3, Perla, British str. from Manila.
3, Aristeia, Austrian str. from Moji.
3, Benedi, British str. from Otaru.
3, Clara, German str. from Pakhoi.
3, Japan, British str. from London.
3, Ula, British transport, from Taku.
3, Taishan, British str. from Saigon.
4, Emma Luyken, German str. from Saigon.
4, Wuhu, British str. from Yangtze.

4, Germania, German str. from Saigon.
4, Hailong, British str. from Haiphong.
4, Yarra, French str. from Shanghai.

DEPARTURES.

April—

26, Vipere, French gunboat, for Saigon.
27, Humber, British storeship, for Shanghai.
27, Ballarat, British str. for Shanghai.
27, Michael, Jansen, Ger. str. for Haiphong.
27, Hailong, British str. for Haiphong.
27, Elita Nossack, German str. for Shanghai.
27, Lyeemoon, German str. for Shanghai.
27, Chiyuen, Amr. str. for Shanghai.
27, Esmeralda, British str. for Manila.
28, Daijin Maru, Japanese str. for Swatow.
28, Taksang, British str. for Bangkok.
28, Kweiyang, British str. for Canton.
28, Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str. for Bombay.
28, Hailan, French str. for Hoihow.
28, Thales, British str. for Swatow.
28, Keongwai, German str. for Hoihow.
28, Deuteros, German str. for Bangkok.
28, Chihli, British str. for Canton.
28, Choysang, British str. for Canton.
28, Wingsang, British str. for Canton.
29, Tailee, German str. for Hongay.
29, Shantung, German str. for Taku.
29, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str. for K'notan.
29, Victoria, Swedish str. for Chefoo.
30, Etruria, British str. for Canton.
30, Clam, British str. for Shanghai.
30, Esang, British str. for Canton.
30, Ajax, British str. for London.
30, Haimun, British str. for Swatow.
30, Kwanglee, British str. for Shanghai.
30, Eastern, British str. for Shanghai.
30, Kashing, British str. for Foochow.
30, Hoihao, French str. for Haiphong.
30, Taishun, American str. for Canton.
30, Hansa, German str. for Singapore.
30, Segovia, German str. for Yokohama.
30, Blenheim, British cruiser, for Woosung.

May—

1, City of Peking, Amr. str. for S. Francisco.
1, Preussen, German str. for Shanghai.
1, Princess Irene, German str. for Europe.
1, Concord, U.S. gunboat, for Amoy.
1, Hermione, British cruiser, for Foochow.
1, Ariake Maru, Japanese str. for Moji.
1, Kyoto Maru, Japanese str. for Moji.
1, Akashi Maru, Japanese str. for Swatow.
1, Moyune, British str. for Manila.
1, Diamante, British str. for Manila.
1, Loongsang, British str. for Manila.
1, Tientain, British str. for Moji.
1, Kwongsang, British str. for Canton.
1, Salahadji, Dutch str. for Swatow.
1, Tartar, British str. for Vancouver.
2, Wineland, Danish str. for Foochow.
2, Rajaburi, Dutch str. for Hoihow.
2, J. Diederichsen, German str. for Hoihow.
2, Chowtai, German str. for Bangkok.
2, Apenrade, German str. for Haiphong.
2, Anping, British str. for Shanghai.
2, Kumsang, British str. for Calcutta.
2, Kwanglee, British str. for Amoy.
2, Thales, British str. for Haiphong.
2, Hue, French str. for Kwong-chow-wan.
2, A. Macleod, American str. for Iloilo.
2, Tetartos, German str. for Sourabaya.
2, Canton, British str. for Canton.
2, Kalgan, British str. for Canton.
3, Pakhoi, British str. for Shanghai.
3, Kweiyang, British str. for Tientain.
3, P. C. Klao, British str. for Bangkok.
3, Dardanus, British str. for Shanghai.
3, Pingsury, British str. for Seattle.
3, Konigsberg, German str. for Singapore.
3, Progress, German str. for Touron.
3, Loongmoon, German str. for Shanghai.
3, Hakata Maru, Jap. str. for London.
4, Holstein, German str. for Swatow.
4, Hong Bee, British str. for Swatow.
4, Santa Cruz, American sch. for Yap.
4, Fausang, British str. for Singapore.
4, Taintau, German str. for Canton.
4, Irene, Chinese str. for Canton.
4, Aurora, British str. for Tung Yung Island.
5, Wingsang, British str. for Swatow.
5, Haitan, British str. for Swatow.
5, Glenshiel, British str. for Kobe.
5, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str. for Swatow.
5, Aristeia, Austrian str. for Moji.
5, Clara, German str. for Hoihow.
5, Lindula, British str. for Amoy.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Thales*, from Foochow, Mrs. Rennie and child; from Swatow, Mr. Brewitt Taylor.

Per *Meade*, from Manila, Mrs. Page and two daughters, Mrs. Williams and two daughters, Mrs. Vose, Mrs. Rutherford and daughter, Misses Doussman, Miss Bash, Messrs. E. Wernher, F. W. Lloyd, Mrs. F. A. Webster, Mr. F. J. Schatfeldt, Dr. W. O. Berlin and Mr. F. E. Dow.

Per *Sallaarat*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr. A. C. Noules, Mrs. Cockburn and two children, Arm. Sergt. and Mrs. Hall and two children and Mr. G. Wade Shore; from Marseilles, Messrs. C. McArthur, I. Hebling, R. W. Halliday and Escombe; from Port Said, Messrs. Coleman and Nickerson; from Bombay, Mr. Haji Abdul Mahomed; from Colombo, Messrs. A. E. Fearnley, G. H. Mann, Fox Strangeways, W. G. Richardson, Col. G. D. and Mrs. Fanshawe and Miss Rosamond Layard; from Singapore, Messrs. G. B. Creaswell, E. E. Rouse and C. C. L. Fitzwilliams.

Per *Wingsang*, from Swatow, Mr. J. T. Potts.

Per *Loongang*, from Manila, Dr. H. S. Moore, Messrs. G. Raibe, C. Hicks, Lieut. A. Norton, Dr. G. G. sman, Mr. T. Kearney, Miss Edwards, and Messrs. Taft and Murphy.

Per *Eastern*, from Sydney, &c., Sir Salter Pyne, K.C.S.I., Mr. and Miss Ettershank, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Reid, Mrs. Bode, Mrs. Leibins, Misses Roberts (2), Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Allen, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. and Miss Gillespie, Mr. Mrs. and Master Clark, Miss Nesbitt, Revs. J. A. Bartholo, J. A. da S. Rozario, A. A. Pedroza, A. M. da Santos, J. M. Gonsalves, V. D. Reis, C. F. Rodrigues, Capt. Amaral and Messrs. H. Caldor, Moore (2), E. Grainger, G. Tayleur, G. Krinks, Tichborne, J. Street, T. Bone, J. Furness, Dubbaun, Walker, Osborne, H. Kogama and J. Young.

Per *Jacob Diederichsen*, from Haiphong, &c., Madame Mosk.

Per *Progress*, from Tournon, Messrs. Doucet and Malot and Mr. and Mrs. Escande.

Per *Thales*, from Swatow, Mr. and Mrs. Frewins.

Per *Prinzess Irene*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mr. A. Goecke, Mrs. Michael, Mr. and Mrs. Bent, Mr. H. Vaparimal Gungormal; from Nagasaki, Mr. A. Lohen, Mrs. Parson and children; from Shanghai, Messrs. Encarnacao, A. Wilson, G. A. Watkins, Ferguson, W. D. Graham, M. Fernandez, F. Montaned, A. Haupt, Willecke, Mrs. C. German, Mrs. Ross Taylor and children, Mrs. Harling, Messrs. Ferd. Bornemann, M. F. Walker, L. Rosen, Meuror, Breckwardt, Mrs. Borrett and F. Bonnett; from Shanghai, for Singapore, Messrs. F. Hermanns, Athkinson, H. Darly, H. B. Salmoud, Griffiths and Tanaka; for Port Said, Messrs. Guilcheisio, Agapeieff and Bako; for Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. Hodgson, Baroness d'Anethan, Dr. S. Eto, Consul Gielen, Mr. and Mrs. Cropp, Miss Wehner, Messrs. Duncan, P. May, Miss M. Savile, Mr. and Mrs. F. Block, Messrs. Martiny, Fr. Elsasser, Mrs. and Miss W. Rich, Messrs. G. Sierish, S. Busse, Mrs. M. Slevogt, Mr. and Mrs. Brodersen, Mrs. Ferguson, Mr. Brammüller, Bishop McKim, Mrs. and Miss McKim, Miss Smith, Messrs. A. Massui, A. F. Farr, F. Kuhn, Fahn and Datta Corte; for Southampton, Consul Langford, Mrs. B. Atkinson, Mr. Law, Mrs. Pendrice, Mrs. Scott, Miss Bull, Mrs. Walker and children, Messrs. F. W. Alderson and W. F. Sally; for Antwerp, Mr. L. Tschierbaert; for Hamburg, Mr. A. Wolkoff, Mrs. G. Thomas, Miss Neulner, Mr. and Mrs. Kirchner, Messrs. Lars Berner and Strauss.

Per *Haitan*, from Foochow, &c., Capt. Drummond, Capt., Mrs. and Master Roope, Mr. and Mrs. Potickoff, Mrs. Gandapan, Mr. Neeson, Master F. Warmesley, Messrs. H. Emanuel, Grant, McAuston, F. C. Barlow, C. McKewdrick, Kenneth, West, Mrs. Southcote, Messrs. H. Balm, J. G. Gotz, H. Green and F. A. Johnson.

Per *Preussen*, from Bremen, for Hongkong, Mr. Johannes Haumeyer; for Manila, Mr. A. G. Schwarz; for Shanghai, Mr. Adolf Rodenbeck; from Southampton, for Hongkong, Miss Brooks, Rev. E. Pilquist, Mr. A. H. Reich, Mr. and Mrs. H. Schlee and child and Master John D'Urtla Scott; for Shanghai, Dr. D. D. Muir; for Nagasaki, Rev. and Mrs. G. E. Bousfield,

Miss M. R. Burroughs and Miss M. C. Witherby; from Genoa, for Hongkong, Rev. and Mrs. Carl Gutmann, Mr. Irving, Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey C. C. Master, and Mr. E. C. Pontifex; for Shanghai, Messrs. Alexandroff, H. Cordes, Karl Dalladat, Carl Floeck, Robert Halbritter, H. P. Hansen, Mrs. Anna Cath Hansen and Miss Anna Hansen; from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Schellenberg; from Naples, for Yokohama, Baroness Orusawa.

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Per *Haitan*, from Swatow, Miss v. Heermann.

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Per *Ula* from Taku, Major Hogge, Capt. Drake Brochman, Capt. Ives, I.M.S., and Capt. Holman.

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